United Nations S/PV.6700

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6700th meeting

Wednesday, 11 January 2012, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Ms. Nkoana-Mashabane	(South Africa)
Members:	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Araud
	Germany	Mr. Berger
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Haroon
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zhukov
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2011/814)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

12-20459 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Expression of welcome to new members and of thanks to outgoing members of the Council

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Security Council this year, I should like take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to everyone and to wish a fruitful new year to all members of the Security Council, the United Nations and the Secretariat.

On behalf of the Council, I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the new members, namely, Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Morocco, Pakistan and Togo. We look forward to their participation in the work of the Council. Their experience and wisdom will be of invaluable assistance in the discharge of the Council's responsibilities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express the Council's gratitude to the outgoing members — Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Gabon, Lebanon and Nigeria — for their important contributions to the work of the Council during their term in 2010 and 2011.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President: I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Vitaly Churkin, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of December 2011. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Churkin and his team for the great diplomatic skill with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2011/814)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of South Sudan and the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/814, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

I now give the floor to Mr. Ladsous.

Mr. Ladsous (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank the members of the Security Council for giving me this opportunity to brief them on the current situation in Darfur and on the implementation of the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

Members will have seen the Secretary-General's report on UNAMID (S/2011/814) dated 30 December 2011. In that connection, I should like to highlight certain key points pertaining to the political, security and humanitarian situation in Darfur.

On the political front, following the progress outlined in the Secretary-General's report, the parties have moved ahead on power sharing and the implementation of provisions concerning security set out in the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. On 18 December 2011, the President of the Sudan issued a decree appointing Bahr Idriss Abu Garda, Secretary-General of the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), as Minister of State for Health. On 27 December, three additional presidential decrees concerning the peace process were issued, which dissolved the transitional regional authority for Darfur and established the Darfur Regional Authority as the main body responsible for the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in cooperation with the Government of the Sudan. The decrees also appoint the members of the Authority's governing body.

The appointments include, among others, seven members of the Liberation and Justice Movement, in accordance with the protocol on political participation. They also include a member of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA)-Unity and a member of the Justice and Equality Movement-Peace Wing, which are two signatory organizations to the declaration of commitment to the Doha Document for Peace in

Darfur, a member of the National Congress Party and a division general of the Sudanese Armed Forces as the commissioner in charge of security arrangements. The LJM has accepted those appointments. The next phase should include the establishment of the legislative council, ministries and the departments of the Darfur Regional Authority and the setting of priorities for the implementation of those measures.

Yesterday, President Al-Bashir issued three decrees appointing new governors to Darfur States, including appointments for two newly created States. That brings the number of States comprising Darfur to five. The decrees also released certain governors from their duties and appointed a presidential adviser. Decree No. 1 stipulates that the governors of South Darfur and West Darfur, Abdulhameed Musa Kasha and Jaafar Abdulhakam, saw their duties ended. Decree No. 2 appoints new governors — Abdulhameed Musa Kasha as Governor of East Darfur, Yousef Tibin Musa Adam for Central Darfur, Hamad Ismail Hamad Abdulkarim for South Darfur and Haider Galo Koma Atim for West Darfur. Lastly, the third decree appoints Mr. Jaafar Abdulhakam presidential adviser.

East and Central Darfur are therefore two newly established States. Zalingei, which is the place of origin of the Fur ethnic group, will become the capital of Central Darfur and includes a large part of Jebel Marra. The town Ed Daein, which is home to certain Arab tribes, will become the capital of East Darfur. It is situated in the south-east of that region. All the newly appointed governors belong to the National Congress Party, with the exception of Mr. Haider Galo Koma, appointed to West Darfur, who is a vice-president of the Liberation and Justice Movement.

Also yesterday, 10 January, the Sudanese Minister of Justice appointed Mr. Ahmed Abdel-Motalib Ahmed as Public Procurator of the Special Court for Darfur. That appointment is made in accordance with the provisions of the Doha Document on justice and reconciliation. The headquarters of the Public Procurator of that Special Court will be in El Fasher, in North Darfur, with branch offices, if I can call them that, in Nyala and El Geneina.

Regarding the implementation of the security provisions of the Doha Document following four meetings of the Ceasefire Commission and the inaugural meeting of the Joint Commission described in the report, the LJM has shared its list of staff for the observer post groups and the teams responsible for the verification of forces. Moreover, that verification is expected to begin in a few days.

With regard to the inclusiveness of the peace process since the signing of the Doha Document on 14 July, the Government and the non-signatory movements have not met. There was a window of three months offered by the Government to the parties likely to want to sign the Doha Document, and that window expired in October without any move towards new signatures. As noted in the Secretary-General's report, the Joint Chief Mediator ad interim continued to put pressure on the Government, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), the SLA-Minni Minawi and the SLA-Abdul Wahid for them to resume negotiations. However, a series of disagreements of the scope of the negotiations, appeals by the Sudanese Revolutionary Front and the fact that an alliance had been established among the JEM, SLA-Minni Minawi and SLA-Abdul Wahid with a view to overthrowing the Government led by the National Congress Party all obstructed any resumption of talks.

It is known that the leader of the JEM, Khalil Ibrahim, is dead. The consequences of his death for the peace process will in time become clear. However, what can be said at this stage is that his death seems to have reduced the chance of resuming talks between his movement and the Government in the near future. In a statement that it made shortly after Khalil's death, the JEM vowed to avenge him and declared that it would continue to work to overthrow the Government of the National Congress Party.

For its part, the Government of the Sudan called on all armed groups in Darfur to lay down their weapons and to rejoin the peace process on pain of suffering the same fate as Khalil. We believe that the JEM is currently in the process of choosing a successor to him.

As the report before the Council points out, the Secretary-General is developing, in close cooperation with the African Union, a road map for peace in Darfur. That road map seeks to give the United Nations and the African Union a framework to jointly facilitate talks among the parties in three key areas: first, support for the implementation of the Doha Document; secondly, sustained engagement with the Government and the non-signatory movements in order to promote

negotiations; and thirdly, support for internal dialogue in Darfur.

(*spoke in English*)

As noted in the report, while a number of areas in Darfur remain relatively free of military hostilities, clashes between Government and movement forces in areas along the Northern Darfur-Northern Kordofan border, the Southern Darfur-Southern Kordofan border and West Jebel Marra took place during the second half of December. There were no reports of civilian casualties or displacement recorded by UNAMID in relation to those incidents

The security situation in Darfur relates not only to military clashes, but also to threats to the physical well-being and freedom of movement of civilians. In that connection, we remain concerned about the incidence of banditry, crime and sexual and gender-based violence, as described in detail in the report.

Of particular concern is the situation in the Zam Zam internally displaced persons (IDPs) camp. Following the appointment in late October of a new Central Reserve Police commander at the camp, the security situation there deteriorated. The incidence of shooting at night, looting and harassment of IDPs by Central Reserve Police personnel gradually increased following that appointment. On 29 November, an IDP was shot dead and two were injured by Central Reserve Police.

Many of the incidents were reported to Government authorities, including through UNAMID, but one must say that little reaction was observed. UNAMID vigorously engaged state Government officials and repeatedly drew their attention to the reports of misconduct by Central Reserve Police personnel. Following a determined démarche of Government police officials by UNAMID on 18 December, the Central Reserve Police commander was replaced. Tension within the camp has since eased considerably.

UNAMID continues to monitor the situation closely, to facilitate weekly coordination meetings among IDP leaders, local security officials and humanitarian agencies, and to work with Government authorities to enhance security in the camp in an appropriate manner.

The marked increase in manoeuvres and clashes between Government and movement forces in recent weeks was accompanied by a sharp increase in restrictions of movement imposed on UNAMID by Government authorities. That included restrictions on flights and land patrols in the areas of conflict noted earlier from mid-December to early January. The restrictions were imposed on the basis of ongoing Sudanese Armed Forces operations.

The denials of access have severely impeded UNAMID's ability to implement its mandate and to resupply team sites in affected areas. The Mission has repeatedly called on the Government in an effort to re-establish access. I myself have strongly urged officials of the Government of the Sudan in my meetings with them, starting with my visit to the Sudan in October, to allow UNAMID unhindered access throughout Darfur, emphasizing that UNAMID forces are armed and therefore able to protect themselves against security threats.

With regard to other operational issues, I am pleased to inform the Council that all 447 containers that had been at dock in Port Sudan since May 2011 waiting customs clearance were cleared on 9 January. That development comes after repeated démarches of Government officials in Port Sudan and Khartoum by UNAMID.

However, the number of outstanding visa requests remains of concern. As of 10 January, the total number of outstanding requests stood at 935 — 467 police, 172 military and 296 civilian personnel. UNAMID continues meeting with Ministry for Foreign Affairs officials on a weekly basis in relation to that issue and has of course repeatedly provided to Government officials, in addition to the initial visa applications submitted, consolidated lists of outstanding requests.

With regard to the humanitarian situation, the continued trend of internally displaced persons and refugees voluntarily returning to their homes at a rate of approximately 1,500 people per month was encouraging. The total number of verified voluntary returnees in Darfur from 1 January to 30 October 2011 was more than 85,000, as compared to 70,000 newly displaced. Nevertheless, the World Food Programme provided assistance to some 4 million people in Darfur during the course of 2011. While most parts of Darfur were accessible to humanitarian organizations, with a UNAMID security escort needed outside the main town centres, access to western Jebel Marra was repeatedly denied, and intermittently restricted to the

greater Jebel Marra, Shangil Tobaya and Umbaru areas and to the Zam Zam camp.

Regarding the safety and security of mission and humanitarian personnel, the attacks on UNAMID peacekeepers that occurred in Zam Zam on 10 October and in Nyala on 6 November, resulting in the death of four peacekeepers and injuries to seven, were of course of serious concern. The Secretary-General has called on the Government to cooperate fully with UNAMID in investigating the incidents and to do all that it can to hold the perpetrators accountable. In addition, we are relieved that an aid worker who had been kidnapped in Nyala on 14 August was released on 16 December.

The initial steps taken by the signatory parties in the implementation of the Doha Document provide reason for optimism. The parties should be supported in that regard by the Council, and by the international community more broadly, particularly with the implementation of provisions that bring about tangible improvements to the lives of Darfuris. In addition, there remains a need to bring the Government and the non-signatory movements to the negotiating table. Their long-standing grievances can only be effectively dealt with through peace talks that result in an agreement to cease hostilities and to work together towards peace. We shall continue to work with the African Union towards that end.

Furthermore, we will continue to provide protection to civilians, facilitate the delivery of aid and assist voluntary returnees, with a view towards bring relief to the people of Darfur during the search for a comprehensive and lasting settlement to the conflict.

The President: I thank Mr. Ladsous for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of South Sudan.

Mr. Choat (South Sudan): I would like to express my appreciation to the Republic of South Africa for convening this meeting and to you, Madam President, for presiding over the discussion.

The Republic of South Sudan is concerned about the security situation in Darfur. We believe that insecurity in any part of our region, including in the Republic of the Sudan, has the potential to affect the security situation in our country. It is our view that the Darfur crisis needs to be resolved through negotiation and a political settlement. We encourage all parties to enter rapidly into political negotiations in a spirit of goodwill and compromise.

The Republic of South Sudan notes that the situation in Darfur is not entirely isolated from the other challenges facing the two Sudans. We respectfully invite members of the Council to take the wider political and security context into consideration during its discussions. For example, the ongoing situation in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states could have an effect on the dynamics of the situation in Darfur. We encourage the international community to consider the challenges of the region in a broad manner, as that will be the most effective way to maintain and strengthen peace and security in the long term.

The Republic of South Sudan remains fully committed to resolving all outstanding issues between Sudan and South Sudan in a full and comprehensive manner. We hope that progress made in the negotiations between our two countries might also positively influence the chances for progress in Darfur and in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states, so that all of the peoples of the Sudan can enjoy the lasting and permanent peace that they deserve.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Osman (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to welcome to this meeting Her Excellency Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister for Foreign Affairs of sisterly South Africa. We are honoured to have her presiding over our deliberations today on the report (S/2011/814) of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). I would also like to take this opportunity to express my warmest congratulations to the representatives of Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Morocco, Pakistan and Togo as they join the Security Council as non-permanent members.

I would also like to express our thanks to Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, for his briefing on the situation in Darfur. I want to thank him in particular for clarifying the significant positive developments that have taken place there. I would like to respond to some of the minor procedural issues he cited, but in general his briefing was positive — indeed promising — in view of the signing of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

Our deliberations today on the report before the Council on UNAMID are taking place as the situation in Darfur is showing stability on the security, humanitarian and development pillars. There have also been significant positive developments, namely, the fact that the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur has entered the implementation phase and that the Darfur transitional authorities have assumed their full authority, with Mr. Tijani Seise of the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) taking the oath as the Chair of the Darfur Regional Authority, on 23 October.

Many members of the factions named in the Doha Document have been appointed as ministers and State ministers in the central Government and in other posts in the transitional Authority in Darfur, as Mr. Ladsous noted earlier. This is a very promising development that shows that the people of Darfur, who carried arms until recently, are today in control of Darfur, with the exception of a few elements that I will discuss later on.

In the past few months, Darfur has witnessed an increase in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons, who have voluntarily begun to return, in the tens of thousands, to their villages. It is clear to all that they have been reassured of the stability of the security situation and that their daily needs in those villages are being met.

The Sudanese Government has for example allocated the sum of $600 million, as a foreign component, and 134 million Sudanese pounds, as a local component, to the reconstruction fund for Darfur for resettlement and to ensure stability and a life of dignity for those who return, and also for the implementation of a number of development projects in the region.

In that context, we also pay tribute to the tireless efforts made by the Government in rehabilitating model villages for the returnees, a project that involved the provision of solar-generated electricity to 100 villages in Western Darfur and to social clubs, health centres, schools and other types of installations. These provide citizens with modern means of communication, including a number of satellite channels, and with health-care services. That represents a significant qualitative leap in terms of development in Darfur, especially in Western Darfur. Efforts will continue with a view to rehabilitating all the remaining areas.

In that context, I should also like to recall that the committee that has been entrusted with the implementation of the Doha Document, under the chairmanship of Qatar, is now preparing for an international conference to be held on 16 January in the city of El-Fasher, the capital of Northern Darfur, as part of efforts to promote development.

According to the information I have received, the following countries and entities will participate in the conference, whose theme will be the promotion of stability and development in Darfur: Great Britain, China, Russia, the United States of America, Canada, the African Union, Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, the European Union, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and UNAMID. Many other countries are expected to announce their participation in that international conference. That shows that peace has taken root in Darfur.

As stated in paragraph 6 of the report before the Council, the Ceasefire Commission, which was instituted in the context of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, has met four times during the period covered by the report. The signatories to the Document have provided the required information on the disposition and locations of their forces, in accordance with the Document. That will allow the ceasefire groups to undertake follow-up and verification exercises; complete the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; and integrate LJM combatants into the Sudanese Armed Forces.

Let me recall here that the LJM forces are a group of 11 rebel factions that have joined the Peace Agreement. We will ensure that those who wish to joint the armed forces or return to civilian life can do so.

Sudan, an active Member of the United Nations, now has vast experience in the disarmament and reintegration of former combatants, absorbing rebel movements and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. We can share our experience in that respect with those that require it.

The examples I have cited confirm that major strides towards peace are taking place in Darfur. They make clear the determination of all parties and of the Government to implement the Doha Document in a very serious manner. In addition, the parties to the Document have launched awareness-raising campaigns in Darfur about the Document, with the assistance of UNAMID. Here I would like to thank UNAMID for its efforts in the context of the awareness-raising and outreach campaign in the countryside. A total of

25 copies of the Document have been distributed to the non-governmental organization community and to civil society.

In the context of cooperation by the Sudanese Government with the international community, I should like to highlight the meeting of the special representatives of countries members of the Security Council that was held in El Geneina, Western Darfur, last October, and which was attended by representatives of the African Union and African elders. That was but one of the significant and positive developments taking place in Darfur. The meeting was also attended by representatives of Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, Japan, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Britain and the United States.

Moreover, the final document of the conference affirmed that the Doha Document represents an important step towards peace and stability in Darfur. The meeting took place in October 2011, and we eagerly await the arrival of representatives of Security Council members to assist the Sudan in the peace effort.

Paragraphs 22 to 25 of the report before the Council note the improved security situation in the region, with the exception of a few pockets where some rebel movements have rejected peace and have no intention whatsoever of joining the peace process. They have become desperate following their military defeat, and have turned to pillaging and armed robbery. Mr. Ladsous referred to armed gangs that kidnap and terrorize civilians even in the internally displaced persons camps; these are the actions of the remaining armed movements and gangs of pillagers that have rejected peace. Their only remaining activity is armed robbery, and they do not hesitate to undertake reckless suicide missions.

This was manifest when Khalil Ibrahim, the leader of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) who was killed on 23 December 2011, announced that the JEM was preparing to attack Khartoum militarily and to overthrow the Government. In that context, we registered a complaint with the Security Council on 29 December, containing documented evidence that South Sudan is host to many of the JEM members who crossed the international border in 79 militarized four-by-fours carrying more than 350 armed elements of that Movement. The Council has been apprised of the details of this action. There is no doubt that those elements are now in the Timsah region, well inside the 1956 borders.

We have asked the Council to urge our brothers in the Government of South Sudan to extend no assistance to that force. We have asked that they be disarmed. We have asked that those who are being sought by the Government of the Sudan to answer for their crimes be turned over. Unfortunately, we have seen no progress in that regard. We request the Security Council to send a clear and strong message. The situation is clear. These forces were armed by Colonel Al-Qadhafi when they were defending his regime in Libya. When the regime fell, they crossed the border into the Sudan, and when we chased them they crossed into South Sudan.

We genuinely fear for the stability and development of that country, because these armed forces are capable of reigniting the conflict in South Sudan. There is ample cause for our fear. Tribal conflict and mass murder are ongoing in South Sudan. We are concerned that the weapons of that armed group will find their way to the tribes, whose combatants will use them to settle their scores.

As the representative of South Sudan noted, we are most eager to resolve all pending issues with the South. A meeting will be convened in Addis Ababa on 17 January under the presidency of Mr. Thabo Mbeki to address all such issues. I wish to place on record that we are very sincere in our desire to resolve all outstanding matters, but that South Sudan has not reciprocated our sincerity or translated its words into deeds. Although it claims to be eager to settle these issues, it is providing unlimited support to the rebel movements in Southern Kordofan and Blue Niles states. How can we reconcile its stated intentions with its actions?

This attitude will not help to build South Sudan into a modern country. South Sudan needs stability, security and peace if it is to meet the major challenges it faces. I believe that ensuring such conditions is the responsibility of the Security Council. We fear that if the Council fails to address the situation resolutely and to send a clear message to the Government of South Sudan, its actions will have repercussions for the entire region.

Paragraph 32 of the report before the Council notes that, "between 1 October and 12 December,

UNAMID carried out 19,644 military and police patrols". That huge number illustrates the vast geographical area covered by the patrols, as well as the stability and security prevailing in the region. The sheer size of UNAMID — the world's largest peacekeeping operation — also means that it carries out the highest number of military and police patrols anywhere in the world. That illustrates the unlimited cooperation provided by the Government of the Sudan. If there are some cases concerning entry visas, then that must be understood in the context of the very large number of personnel in the mission. As a Member of this international Organization, let me say sincerely that we are very eager to rationalize the budget of the United Nations.

I see that the official of the Secretariat is holding a side discussion, which disrupts my statement. I would request that he pay appropriate attention to my statement.

In the wake of the prevailing stability in Darfur, it is high time that the Council consider reducing the huge number of personnel, which consumes a budget of almost $3 billion. Should we not utilize that money for other United Nations projects? We believe that the existence of remaining pockets of armed movements should not be a reason for the United Nations to waste $3 billion monthly. In reality, what we should do is to put pressure on those armed movements that reject peace to join the peace process — or to punish them. Their members are now kidnapping humanitarian workers and members of UNAMID. We reiterate that we will continue to cooperate with UNAMID to put an end to that phenomenon. In that connection, we were able to liberate the Italian national Francesco Azzara, who was abducted near Janina two months ago, just as my Government has been successful in securing the release of other hostages in the past.

In conclusion, let me again say that we will continue to fully implement all the provisions of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. We will not close the door on anyone who chooses the road to peace. We hope that today's Security Council deliberations will result in the adoption of a more positive approach by the Council that helps to complete the process of peace and stability, which has now taken hold.

Finally — and this pertains to a piece of information provided by Mr. Ladsous — the Doha Document for Peace includes a reference to establishing special tribunals to try those who committed crimes during the conflict, including crimes against humanity, war crimes or armed robbery in Darfur. A special prosecutor was recently appointed in that regard. As Mr. Ladsous has said, that prosecutor is credible and well known for his legal background. There will be several branches of the tribunal in Darfur. As I said, that just occurred yesterday. The Doha Document for Peace also refers to the fact that the tribunal could receive observers from the United Nations and elsewhere to monitor its work. That means that no one who has committed a crime will enjoy impunity.

The President: I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the representative of South Sudan for the statement he made earlier. In the same vein, I thank the representative of the Sudan for his statement.

There are no more names inscribed on my list. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6701

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6701 st meeting

Wednesday, 11 January 2012, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Ms. Nkoana-Mashabane	(South Africa)
• *Members*:	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mammadyarov
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Briens
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zhukov
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Letter dated 9 January 2012 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2012/19)

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12-20465 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Letter dated 9 January 2012 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2012/19)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Burundi, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda to participate in today's meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, to participate in today's meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, to participate in today's meeting.

I wish to welcome the participation at this meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and Kenya, and the Minister of Defence of Uganda.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2012/19, which contains a letter dated 9 January 2012 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa.

It gives me great pleasure to preside over this important meeting on Somalia, at which we will receive briefings of the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission, as well as the troop-contributing countries to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Today's meeting is a practical demonstration of the close cooperation we seek to enhance between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council in matters related to peace and security on the African continent. We are convinced that the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council could benefit significantly from such political engagement, which would assist us in developing a greater strategic approach to developments in Somalia.

Today's briefing on Somalia is taking place at a time when a ray of hope is finally beginning to flicker behind the dark clouds that have overshadowed the country for too long. While the situation in Somalia still involves significant challenges, the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), in the words of the Secretary-General, "with determination and proper support ... can begin to anchor itself across Somalia" (*S/2011/759, para.89*).

Through our collective endeavours, the future of Somalia can today be firmly placed on a trajectory of progress and stability. Recent positive developments at the political, military and humanitarian levels present the international community, and the Somalis in particular, with a window of opportunity to turn the page and advance towards peace, security and development.

We can all share the optimism of the Secretary-General, who, during his historic visit to Mogadishu, stated that a few years ago people tended to think of Somalia only as a place of famine or bloodshed. It was indeed a forgotten conflict. The Secretary-General challenged all of us to change the way we see Somalia.

Somalia has been high on the list of priorities of the Secretary-General. We wish to place on record our gratitude for his continued efforts to assist Somalia as it embarks on the road to recovery and stability. Through his efforts and the active engagement of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the African Union, successes have been recorded at several levels.

The Kampala Accord of June 2011 and the adoption of the political road map in September 2011 to end the transition by 23 August have been widely supported by the Transitional Federal Institutions and the international community. Most recently, at a Somali national consultative conference held in Garowe from 21 to 23 December 2011, participants reached an agreement on the size of the new constituent assembly and the basis for representation therein, the finalization of a federal constitution by April, and the creation of a post-transition bicameral parliamentary structure within defined timelines.

Despite the fact that some deadlines have been missed, I am encouraged by the progress made thus far in the implementation of the road map. We wish to encourage the Transitional Federal Institutions to utilize the existing window of opportunity to achieve measurable results, such as the adoption of the national security and stabilization plan by Parliament, the finalization of the constitution and the reform of Parliament.

We call on all other Somali stakeholders to demonstrate the requisite political will and the determination to implement the Kampala Accord and the political road map of September 2011 so as to meet the agreed deadlines. We also strongly urge the parties to resolve the current crisis within the Transitional Federal Parliament.

The Transitional Federal Government forces, supported by AMISOM, have liberated Mogadishu from Al-Shabaab control. Additionally, the armed forces of Kenya, deployed in southern Somalia, and of Ethiopia, near eastern Somalia, have placed Al-Shabaab forces under severe pressure. We must use the security space created by AMISOM and at great cost to Uganda and Burundi, which have valiantly fought alongside TFG forces, to expand the TFG's control over Mogadishu. Similarly, we must use the opportunities being presented in eastern and southern Somalia to extend the governance control of the TFG over a larger territory of Somalia and establish security in those newly liberated areas.

We note with concern, however, that AMISOM's operational and deployment capabilities continue to be hampered by resource gaps, including arrears in the reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment and the lack of force multipliers and force enablers to AMISOM.

In that regard, we welcome the recently completed African Union-United Nations joint assessment mission, which was deployed to develop a revised strategic concept. We also welcome the 5 January decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council to endorse the enhancement of AMISOM, including an increase in its mandated troop strength from 12,000 to 17,731. We look forward to working with all Council members in considering the Secretary-General's recommendations for an enhanced support package for AMISOM.

The humanitarian situation in Somalia remains dire. However, improvements are being made, with two of the six famine-declared regions having recently graduated to their pre-famine status. That is a welcome development. We encourage the international community to continue its efforts to save millions from famine.

In conclusion, through our collective efforts, we must also communicate a positive message to the ordinary people of Somalia that they have not been abandoned by the international community. We must communicate the message that peace, stability and development are not the privilege of some, but are to be enjoyed by all humankind, irrespective of station or geographical location. We must not fail Somalia and its people.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to Mr. Pascoe.

Mr. Pascoe: I appreciate the opportunity to brief the Security Council today on the situation in Somalia. The participation of high-level representatives underscores the commitment of the international community to address the conflict that has been going on in Somalia for the past two decades.

Much has been achieved in the past few years, yet many challenges continue to plague our attempts to stabilize the political, security and humanitarian situation. We continue to work closely with the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and our many international partners to move the peacemaking efforts in Somalia forward. I would like to sincerely thank this Council for its consistent support to our efforts in Somalia.

Commissioner Lamamra and certain AU member States will present in detail the requirements for expanding the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) operation, following the recent decisions of the Peace and Security Council. The joint undertaking of the AU and the United Nations to develop the strategic concept of AMISOM operations, which will be presented shortly, has been an exemplary model of collaboration between the two organizations under the leadership of the African Union.

There are some outstanding issues that will require further refinement before we request Council action, such as establishing further linkages between

the political and military strategies; agreeing on clear command-and-control arrangements; determining the allocation of AMISOM contingents by sector; further fine-tuning a reasonable package of enablers and force multipliers; and identifying the required support for the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and its allied forces, whose contribution is essential to sustaining AMISOM efforts. We look forward to working closely with the African Union and IGAD in finalizing those issues.

In order to help frame our discussions today, I believe that it would be useful to outline once again the Somalia strategy that we have been pursuing and how we see that process moving forward. Council members will recall that, in 2008, the Secretary-General laid out the United Nations three-pronged integrated approach, aligning the political, security and humanitarian tracks. His approach was endorsed by the Security Council and in several international conferences held thereafter on Somalia.

The political strategy we have followed over the past four years has been consistent. It is, first, to support the TFG in completing the key tasks that will bring the transition to a close; secondly, to assist the TFG in broadening the base of the peace process through outreach and reconciliation; and thirdly, to work to help develop basic State institutions, especially in the security sector.

To implement the first part of the political strategy on moving the transition to a close, we have the road map for ending the transition, signed in Mogadishu on 6 September, which comprises priority tasks that need to be completed by August. This entails finalizing the constitution-making process, in which we have we have seen some good progress. We welcome the adoption of the Garowe Principles by the leaders of the Transitional Federal Institutions, Puntland, Galmudug and an Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a representative last month. They provide a credible path for adopting the new constitution and ending the transition according to the Transitional Charter.

Secondly, we have supported the outreach and reconciliation efforts of the TFG with those groups outside the peace process. This outreach was the key element behind the Djibouti Agreements of 2008, facilitated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah. It will be recalled that this process led to the joining of the then Asmara-based Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia in the political process and the formation of a broad-based Somali Government, led by President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, and an expansion of Parliament to represent a broad spectrum of political positions.

Today, with the support of Special Representative of the Secretary-General Mahiga, the TFG is continuing its dialogue with various groups and has provided support to local-level reconciliation and peacebuilding initiatives. It has developed a close working relationship with Puntland, as demonstrated by the visit of President Sheikh Sharif to Garowe last year. It is attempting to implement similar initiatives with Galmudug. Last November with the support of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), 60 civil society leaders met and agreed that they should play a principal role in the implementation of the road map. The next step is for the TFG to draw up a national reconciliation plan with regional authorities including the Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a. We hope that this will be completed soon.

The third imperative is to help the TFG develop functioning State institutions. In this regard, the Government is committed to moving forward. It has been collecting revenue from Mogadishu port and airport, and paying its security forces and civil servants, although more work needs to be done to ensure accountability. With the help of the United Nations and members of the international community, the TFG has established a functioning Joint Security Committee and the Cabinet has approved a national security policy in consultation with all road map signatories.

The efforts to strengthen AMISOM, build Somalia's security institutions and address piracy are an integral part of the broader United Nations strategy I have just mentioned. Since 2009, the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM has been building the capacity of AMISOM to provide security through its logistics support package. This has entailed the provision of fuel and rations, medical and logistical support, accommodation and transport, and administration of the Trust Fund through which Member States fund the provision of contingent-owned equipment.

Meanwhile, in line with the 2008 approach, Member States have provided significant assistance in

forming a Somali National Security Force. The Force now numbers more than 10,000 troops, who are being paid and supported regularly. We are grateful to the Government of Japan for its generous contributions, which have enabled UNPOS, working with AMISOM and the United Nations Development Programme, to pay the salaries of the Police Force. We will continue to work on improving their living conditions, providing them with the necessary equipment and refurbishing the police stations.

With this support, and of course the backing of AMISOM, the TFG has expanded its presence to cover almost all of Mogadishu. The improvement in security is not complete, as witnessed by the grenade tossed into the United Nations compound today. We cannot relax our efforts. Establishing national security forces is the work of a generation and we should not expect transformation overnight. However, the visit of the Secretary-General in December, and the relocation of his Special Representative to Mogadishu later this month, are indications of just how far we have come.

The efforts of the international maritime forces are having a significant impact on the fight against piracy, with the number of ships being captured actually declining. The contributions of the various naval forces are an integral part of a wider effort that includes assisting local communities to undertake alternative forms of employment, tracking the flow of money to identify those benefiting from piracy, prosecuting those responsible, and creating a coastal security force.

Let me turn to our humanitarian efforts. Despite many risks and difficulties, the United Nations and other humanitarian actors have provided humanitarian assistance to Somalis in the country and in refugee camps in neighbouring countries for the past 20 years. Over the past year, humanitarian actors have managed to reach more than 2 million people with food assistance and 1.4 million people through water and sanitation interventions. In addition, the massive scale-up in humanitarian efforts has reduced the number of areas affected by famine from six to three. We welcome the vast international support in response to the famine and hope that this assistance will continue.

It is important to underscore the serious difficulties humanitarian operations continue to face, especially in getting access to affected populations. This will be an ongoing problem as long as the security dynamics remain fluid. Ultimately, establishing sustainable peace and stability is the only way to bring an end to the suffering of the Somali people. But we must recognize that the increase in military operations carries some risks and difficulties for civilians and humanitarian operations, and we are working to mitigate those as much as possible.

Let me briefly discuss how we see the path forward for Somalia. We believe that we — along with the African Union, IGAD and the Somali Government — have all the elements of a political, security and development strategy that the Somalis and the international community can together implement. In the next few months, the focus will be, first, on ensuring that the final draft of the constitution is completed by 20 April and adopted by a national constituent assembly the following month. This will be followed by the election or selection of a new Parliament, reduced from the current 550 to 225, to be sworn in by mid-June, followed by the election of the Speaker and President, in accordance with the Kampala Accord. This timetable is ambitious and requires full buy-in and determination on the part of the Somalis and the full support of the international community. Let me reiterate that the consensus, both inside and outside Somalia, is that there will be no extension of the transition period.

The second major task will be expanding the control of the Government by establishing administrative arrangements for those areas in southern Somalia recently recovered by military actions from Al-Shabaab. Special Representative Mahiga has been promoting a transparent and inclusive approach in setting up local administrations in the newly recovered areas, and has made several efforts to involve civil society and clan elders in these reconciliation and outreach efforts. The TFG has pledged to organize meetings with political actors on the two areas where the extremists have already been pushed back. We expect to see more progress in the next few weeks.

The third component is improving governance, promoting transparency in the use of financial resources and establishing a functioning civil service. There is already some progress in this regard with the re-establishment of the Bureau for Investigation of Corruption, whose commissioners are currently being vetted. We also intend to continue working with the Government in finalizing its national development plan.

On the fourth issue, security, we will continue to work on building the capacity of the TFG's security forces. The national security and stabilization plan has been finalized and is awaiting parliamentary approval. The relocation of UNPOS to Mogadishu will facilitate further coordination with AMISOM and the Government in implementing this plan. It is important that AMISOM be provided with the necessary financial and logistical capacity to expand its operations in Mogadishu and South-Central Somalia.

In the next few months, the focus will be on the fifth area, namely, revitalizing economic activity and delivering basic services. There are reports of greater economic activity throughout Mogadishu. Reconstruction has started in a number of the devastated areas previously defined in 1991 and 1992 as the green line, as well as in parts of the city affected by the most recent fighting. For instance, a number of businessmen have joined together to rebuild the central oil depot, and there is a plan to build a holiday weekend sports resort along Gezira beach. As we increase our presence in Mogadishu, the various United Nations agencies will work closely with the Government and its partners to focus on recovery and development. We are pleased that the Government of Turkey is working with UNPOS to host the second Istanbul meeting in April, whose primary focus will be economic development.

Finally, let me turn now to the risks and challenges of the current moment. To achieve the strategy I have outlined, it is vital to address the issue of internal and external spoilers that are trying to undermine the implementation of the road map, and ending the transition as planned. We are particularly concerned about the impact of the current parliamentary crisis. The international community must support the TFG to resolve the crisis through dialogue. At the same time, the Council has indicated that it is willing to act against spoilers to the peace process. We need to consider how to make that a reality.

On the security front, Al-Shabaab continues to be a threat, despite its withdrawal from Mogadishu in August. It has stepped up its suicide and improvised explosive device attacks in the capital. A concerted military offensive by AMISOM and regional Powers may present a chance of defeating them as a military movement, but the political and ideological challenge must also be addressed. That can be achieved through the delivery of a peace dividend and real change in people's lives. Limited resources continue to hinder our ability to do more. In October, the United Nations and TFG laid out proposals for stabilization and recovery in Mogadishu. However, despite improvement in transparency, direct resources to the Government are still not flowing.

As we continue to support the peacemaking efforts in Somalia, it is important that we provide practical means to help the Government to become more cohesive and inclusive, strengthen its ability to address the security challenges, carry out reconstruction and development planning, and generate and collect revenue. Irrespective of the structure of the State to be defined by the constitution, it is vital that the Somalis have a national security sector. That will require longer-term commitment and investment by the international community.

It is also important that the international community, with support from the African Union, IGAD, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the League of Arab States, continue to work in a concerted manner, building on the recent gains made in the peace process. The United Nations system, guided by the Security Council, will continue to provide the necessary coordination and support. We look forward to the upcoming London conference, which also offers an opportunity to discuss and work on those critical issues.

It is evident that the only lasting solution for Somalia is one that is created and led by Somalis themselves. The Government's efforts at building consensus for reconciliation are slowly gaining ground, despite the serious challenge by extremists. The international community must make a vital investment at this time to nurture the fragile peace process, help the Government to establish its authority in more areas of the country, build its security and rule of law institutions and expand AMISOM's operations as requested by the African Union.

The President: I thank Mr. Pascoe for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Lamamra.

Mr. Lamamra: On behalf of the African Union, let me start by expressing our gratitude to the Security Council for according us this opportunity to address it at such a critical juncture in the Somalia peace process. The Council's decision to schedule this meeting on

Somalia, at the request of the African Union (AU), is a testament to the importance that members of the Council attach to the situation in that country, as well as to their commitment to build the kind of partnership that the challenges in Somalia and elsewhere in Africa so urgently require.

AU Commission Chairperson Jean Ping sincerely regrets that prior commitments have prevented him from attending this meeting. He extends his compliments to the Council and its members, confident that today's deliberations will pave the way for further progress in the relentless search for lasting peace and reconciliation in Somalia.

More than a year ago, I had the opportunity to address (see S/PV.6407) this organ on the issue of Somalia to convey the request made then by the AU Peace and Security Council and to appeal for the enhancement of the United Nations support package to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Subsequently, the Security Council adopted resolution 1964 (2010), which authorized the Secretary-General to continue to provide support for an enhanced troop strength of 12,000. That the Security Council decision fell short of what the AU had requested is in no doubt. Yet, it represented a step forward, and we endeavored to make the best out of it in support of the aspirations of the Somali people to lasting peace, security and stability.

Today, I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made on the ground by the forces of AMISOM and those of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). For the first time in 20 years, almost the whole of Mogadishu is under the control of the TFG. In addition, military operations in other parts of the country by TFG forces, with the support of Kenya and Ethiopia, have further weakened Al-Shabaab extremists and other anti-peace elements.

The Somali population has been quick to embrace the relative peace brought about by the efforts of AMISOM and TFG forces. Since August 2011, the capital, Mogadishu, has experienced something of a revival. Roads are being repaired, homes rebuilt and markets reopened. Real estate prices — for instance, along Via Moscow — have doubled. And people are now staying out in the streets late into the night, despite the omnipresent threat of terrorist attacks. Traffic at the Aden Abdulleh International Airport has trebled, while the line of ships waiting to dock at the sea port grows longer by the day. Mogadishu has played host to several high-profile visitors, including the African Union Commission Chairperson, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the President of the General Assembly, President Ismaël Omar Guelleh of Djibouti and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey.

Those achievements were made by an under-resourced and under-equipped AMISOM. They also came at a considerable cost to the Mission. Scores of young Burundians and Ugandans, fighting side-by-side with their Somali comrades, have paid the ultimate price in the line of duty. The month of October 2011 was particularly difficult, as AMISOM and TFG forces stepped-up their efforts to secure the capital after the forced withdrawal of Al-Shabaab.

We at the African Union are determined to ensure that the sacrifices they have made, on behalf of all of us, are not in vain. We are therefore grateful to the people and the Government of Burundi and of Uganda. Their actions are a true reflection of African solidarity and our collective commitment to stand by the people of Somalia in their hour of need.

In spite of the severe challenges posed by a devastating humanitarian crisis, the gains made on the ground have created an unprecedented window of opportunity to further peace and reconciliation and to help the Somali people open a new chapter in their troubled history. This is all the more true as progress is also being made on the political front, particularly since the middle of last year. The implementation of the Kampala Accord of June 2011 and the political road map of September 2011 is generally on course.

Undoubtedly, some challenges remain to be overcome. One could, in this respect, point to the prevailing situation in the Transitional Federal Parliament, which has been in a state of paralysis and, on one occasion, was the scene of a brawl as a result of the illegal removal of the Speaker of the Parliament, Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden. Yet such difficulties are to be expected given the complexity and protracted nature of the conflict in Somalia. In a way, the situation is as much a reflection of deficiencies in leadership on the part of the Somali stakeholders as it is an indication of a failure on the part of the international community to provide support that is truly commensurate with the challenges at hand.

It is against that background that the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on

Development (IGAD), recognizing the urgent need to help the Somali people sustain this renewed momentum in the peace process, decided to pursue the critical approach of enhancing the capacity of both AMISOM and TFG forces.

I am glad to report that the strategic concept for future AMISOM operations, whose development involved broad consultations with the Somali authorities, the troop-contributing countries (TCCs), United Nations and other partners in Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Mogadishu, as well as a series of planning sessions, was endorsed by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its 306th meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 5 January.

The Secretariat deserves our highest commendation for fully supporting this process, including the deployment of a team of competent United Nations planners who worked very closely with the Commission to finalize the strategic concept. That document is therefore the product of a joint effort. Essentially, the strategic concept provides for the following: an increase in the level of United Nations-supported AMISOM uniformed personnel from 12,000 to 17,731, including 5,700 from the new troop-contributing countries, a Djiboutian contingent and the rehatted Kenyan troops, as well as an AMISOM police component; the deployment by Burundi and Uganda of additional troops to reach the current United Nations-authorized strength of 12,000; the extension of AMISOM's area of responsibility, including the insertion of AMISOM troops in the areas liberated with the support of Ethiopia; the provision of the required force enablers and multipliers, as well as logistical support to other components of AMISOM; and, last but not least, enhancement of the TFG security and allied forces, so as to enable and empower them to play an increased role in the implementation of the strategic concept.

I wish to reiterate the call made by the Peace and Security Council of the AU for the Security Council to expeditiously consider and authorize the support required for the implementation of the strategic concept for future AMISOM operations. The strategic concept relies very heavily on the provision of force enablers and multipliers, logistical support, funding for reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment, self-sustenance of troops and other critical requirements. We remain appreciative of the support being provided on the ground to AMISOM by the United Nations, and we certainly look forward to the pursuit of such a joint endeavour.

The AU Commission, on its part, is accelerating preparations and consultations on the follow-on planning requirements through continued engagement with our four troop-contributing countries — Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya and Uganda — and with IGAD countries, countries of the region and other partners. This will include the elaboration and early finalization of a revised AMISOM concept of operations so as to adequately address all relevant pending issues, such as command and control, liaison and coordination, and troops-to-task per sector.

Obviously, the military efforts of AMISOM and the TFG forces are designed to achieve the political objectives that are articulated in the Mogadishu road map. With incoming Kenyan forces now an integral part of AMISOM, and with the support provided by Ethiopia, several new areas throughout the country are being liberated from terrorist insurgents. In that context, it is important to ensure that there is no political vacuum in the liberated regions. That highlights the need for increased political outreach and reconciliation on the part of the TFG, as well as recovery support. Therefore, coherence between military operations and political strategy remains imperative and is adequately articulated in the strategic concept.

Consequently, the African Union Commission will continue to support the concerted efforts of the Special Representative of the Chairperson, Ambassador Boubacar Diarra; the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Augustine Mahiga; and the IGAD Facilitator, Kipruto Kirwa, to assist the Somali leaders and other stakeholders in focusing on the implementation of the Kampala Accord and the political road map in the light of the progress achieved so far, in particular at the Garowe conference on constitution-making.

Somalia is at a crossroads. We should not relent in urging the Somali stakeholders to take advantage of the current momentum, so as to once and for all bring to an end the violence and suffering visited upon their people by two decades of conflict and destruction. We should insist on the need for them to fully comply with the commitments contained in the Kampala Accord and the Mogadishu road map. We should continue to stress

that they have the primary responsibility for achieving lasting peace and reconciliation in their country.

At the same time, we should not lose sight of the fact that the Somalis cannot succeed without adequate support from the international community. As stressed by the Chair of the AU Commission in his 15 October 2010 report on Somalia to the Peace and Security Council, we cannot hide from the fact that, so far, the international community has yet to fully assume its responsibility in Somalia. Its action in Somalia has been belated, hardly keeping pace with developments on the ground, partial — forcefully addressing some aspects of the crisis, for instance the scourge of piracy, while not giving sufficient attention to the action required on the mainland — and inadequate. The resources mobilized so far are incommensurate with the challenges. The international community has not shown the sense of anticipation and proactivity required or seized opportunities, when they presented themselves, to further peace and reconciliation in Somalia.

Today, learning from our past experiences and shortcomings, we have the opportunity to turn the situation in Somalia around for the greater good of its long-suffering people and in support of regional stability and international security. As the present deliberations proceed, I have no doubt that we are all fully aware of what is at stake. Failure to act now will be extremely costly.

While reiterating our gratitude to the Security Council for the steps that it has already taken in support of AMISOM, we cannot but call on it to do more to enable us all to cover the remaining ground in our long journey towards lasting peace, reconciliation and security in Somalia.

In closing, I want to again express the African Union's appreciation to South Africa, as President of the Council, for its sustained efforts to further the partnership between the AU and the United Nations; to IGAD for its leadership and resolve; to the AMISOM TCCs, including the new contingents from Djibouti and Kenya, for their commitment; and to the Secretary-General and the Council for the continued attention being paid to the situation in Somalia.

The President: I thank Mr. Lamamra for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Moses Wetangula, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kenya and Chair of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

Mr. Wetangula (Kenya): It gives me great pleasure to attend and participate in this Security Council meeting on the situation in Somalia.

May I commence by commending the Republic of South Africa, as President of the Security Council for the month of January, for having convened this meeting and for having invited Kenya, as the current Chair of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), to participate. Before I make my statement, I wish to also convey to you, Madam President, to all members of the Council and, through you, to their countries and people the very best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous 2012. It is certain that we cannot say the same for Somalia.

This meeting on Somalia could not have come at a better time. It follows closely on the intense work undertaken at the regional and continental levels in the past three months that culminated in the recommendations of the 306th meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council, held on 5 January, which have been communicated to the Council for consideration. I personally look forward to the outcomes of today's deliberations.

The Somali crisis is a matter of which the African Union has remained seized since the start. While it has generated a range of challenges, our resolve to turn Somalia around has been unwavering. In that context, I wish to pay special tribute to Uganda and Burundi — two countries whose daughters and sons continue to pay the ultimate price for the search for peace in Somalia on behalf of the continent and the world at large. I also want to recognize the commitment of Ethiopia for its critical role and support to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and allied forces, Djibouti for the deployment of its first contingent of troops to Somalia, and my country, Kenya, for its ongoing operation, which has liberated parts and populations in south and central Somalia.

Those efforts have been supported immensely by the decisions taken by the Council that have endorsed the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and improved the logistics package available in support of that operation, as well as the bilateral support that has been extended in support of

various activities, including the training of the Somali National Security Forces.

Today's meeting has been convened at a time of unique opportunity for Somalia. As we are all aware, we have before us an unprecedented window of opportunity to finally restore security, peace and stability in Somalia. That has been occasioned by the momentum created following the defeat and withdrawal of Al-Shabaab from Mogadishu after its defeat by AMISOM and the TFG forces in August 2011. The operations of the Kenyan and TFG forces in southern and central Somalia also dealt a devastating blow to Al-Shabaab, and Ethiopia's assistance has made its case even more precarious.

That concert of action was followed by another first, that is, the cooperative effort among the troop-contributing countries, regional countries, the African Union and the United Nations that developed the new strategic concept for future operations of AMISOM in Somalia (see S/2012/19, annex). As the Council is aware, the AU Peace and Security Council approved its new strategic concept, which details the elements of the critical option for optimizing the operation in Somalia. Of great significance is the need to endorse the surge of troop levels from 12,000 to 17,731 and the imperative to provide the required force enablers and multipliers, as well as logistical support to the other components of AMISOM.

The AU request to the Security Council of October 2010 to provide capabilities that could cut out the Al-Shabaab supply lines, especially through the port of Kismayo, and to diminish its ability and those of its international terrorist allies from supplying arms, fighters and contraband, is as relevant today as it was then. It is my hope that it will find some positive expression from the Council.

I take this opportunity to renew the request for the Security Council and the international community to help in the monitoring and inspection of all vessels entering and leaving Kismayo to curb the menace. In that regard, I wish to thank the Council for adopting resolution 2023 (2011), which reinforces sanctions on Eritrea in an effort to diminish the effects of spoilers on the efforts to restore peace to Somalia. It is our hope that that resolution, like others before it, will be implemented in full.

In the experience of Kenya, Al-Shabaab is a force that has visited very many destructive elements on the region. It has attacked our tourist installations. It has tossed grenades into churches, with human casualties. It has kidnapped and captured Kenyan soldiers, whose whereabouts are unknown. It has captured aid workers in the Dadaab refugee camp, whose whereabouts are also unknown. It has captured a tourist, who died in its hands, and it still has the audacity to claim ransom for a dead body to be released, among many other atrocities. We are also worried by the current political developments in Somalia that threaten to derail the political process. Hence, the timelines of the transitional period, as delineated in the Kampala Accord and the Mogadishu road map, are upset.

The AU believes that the political process must remain within the framework developed. Hence, it hopes that the Council can join in bringing its weight upon the Somalia political leadership, through the use of alternative means of persuasion and incentives, to safeguard it and to ensure that the gains made in the military and security sectors add value to the overall objective of achieving peace in Somalia.

As we pursue the political and military strategies in Somalia, it is also imperative that we focus attention on the humanitarian situation in the country. As Council members are aware, Kenya hosts more than 600,000 refugees in the Dadaab complex, where humanitarian assistance efforts continue to be threatened, especially in view of the withdrawal of some agencies following Al-Shabaab attacks and threats.

Furthermore, the humanitarian needs in the liberated areas of Somalia are great, in particular after the expulsion of more than 20 humanitarian organizations. I wish to draw the attention of the Council to the need to encourage and urge humanitarian actors to stand in solidarity with Somalia, to exert pressure to ensure humanitarian access and to take measures to hold accountable those who inhibit or subvert humanitarian efforts. Kenya remains committed to providing the necessary corridors and support for humanitarian access to the needy in Somalia.

Furthermore, it is critical to encourage activities that restore normalcy and enable the resumption of livelihood activities, especially in areas that have been liberated. Such efforts will form the basis for extending TFG governance to those regions, increase the legitimacy of the transitional process and bolster

reconciliation activities. For its part, Kenya has assisted by helping senior ministers of the Transitional Federal Government to visit and address their nationals in the areas that have been liberated.

In addition, we call on all parties concerned to reflect on the next steps for Somalia after the end of the transition period in August. In that regard, we commend the United Kingdom and Turkey for their efforts to show renewed interest in organizing meetings on Somalia. We hope that such meetings will add value to the ongoing process.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Prime Minister of Turkey and the Secretary-General for showing leadership by visiting Mogadishu. Subsequent visits were made during the same period by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Defence of Kenya.

As we prepare to give Somalia the rightful place that we all expect it to have among other countries, Kenya is preparing to send its Ambassador to that country, who is based in Nairobi, to join the Turkish Ambassador who is currently residing in Mogadishu. We urge other countries with Nairobi-based representatives to Somalia to do the same.

The pressure that we have placed on Al-Shabaab has shown that piracy, described previously by the Secretary-General as a land-borne disease, not a sea-borne disease, has been on the decline. Statistics for the past two months show that the number of ships being hijacked has decreased quite considerably. I hope that this will show the international community that putting pressure on, and eventually defeating, Al-Shabaab will be one of the many ways of eliminating piracy, which has made the shipping routes of the Indian Ocean ever so dangerous and expensive.

Finally, I call on the Council to support efforts to build the capacity of Somali institutions to provide security and administrative services to the country's people. Those efforts are critical to achieving the ultimate objective of sustainable peace in Somalia and therefore cannot be left to ad hoc measures that remain largely uncoordinated. We urge the Council to remain focused on, and seized of, the situation in Somalia, as has been the case. We in the region, in particular the AU and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, will play our part by doing what we can to support our brothers and sisters in Somalia.

The President: I thank Minister Wetangula for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Crispus Kiyonga, Minister of Defence of Uganda.

Mr. Kiyonga (Uganda): I would like to congratulate you, Madam President, and the delegation of South Africa on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January. I also thank you for organizing this important and timely briefing on Somalia.

On behalf of the Government of Uganda, I would like to thank the Security Council for its commitment to the cause of peace and security on the African continent, and in Somalia in particular.

This briefing is taking place at a time when we can look back and say that we have made visible progress in moving forward to stabilize Somalia. We can say that now there are prospects; there is a new opportunity to harness efforts in order to deal a final blow to the terrorist forces of Al-Shabaab. That opportunity should not be squandered. The members of the international community should galvanize their efforts to seize this opportunity to save ourselves from the scourge of terrorism in the region.

Uganda and Burundi, acting through the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), have been in Mogadishu supporting the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and battling Al-Shabaab since 2007. We have driven the enemy out of Mogadishu and enabled the TFG to control the city. We have created an environment in which international actors can safely travel into and out of Mogadishu. We have secured the airport and the seaport. Those achievements have been made at great sacrifice in terms of lives lost on the battlefront — those of our sons and daughters, among the troop-contributing countries and in the TFG. Those gains have been achieved at the cost of resources expended by the United Nations, the European Union and a number of bilateral donors.

The view of Uganda is that we could have made even greater progress had it not been for a number of shortcomings. In our analysis, those include the challenges related to cohesion within the TFG leadership and the failure to fast-track the development of Somali security forces. In our view, five years down the line, those forces would now be in control of Mogadishu had they been developed at a much faster

rate. Additional shortcomings are related to the insufficiency of forces within AMISOM, the less-than-adequate facilitation of AMISOM and the initial lack of enthusiasm from the international community.

What is the new situation that gives us optimism that we can now defeat Al-Shabaab and stabilize Somalia?

First, I want to commend the Republic of Kenya for taking two important steps: pursuing Al-Shabaab terrorists into Somalia in defence of their country and taking the decision to now be part and parcel of the AMISOM force.

Secondly, I want to thank the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for the strong support it has given to the TFG allied forces, which has led to the capture from Al-Shabaab of important areas along the border with Somalia.

Thirdly, I want to commend the Republic of Djibouti, which has started to deploy its promised 850 troops to Somalia as part of AMISOM.

In the next few weeks, Burundi will deploy an additional 1,000 troops to Somalia. The delay in that particular troop deployment was occasioned by the need to organize the logistics. For its part, Uganda will complete its final deployment of 1,700 troops to Somalia by March. Again, the delay is due to the fact that the Government of the United States has been organizing the logistics that these troops need in order to be deployed.

As we have heard, Kenya and Djibouti have together undertaken to deploy to AMISOM a total of over 5,000 troops in order to beef it up to a force of over 17,000 troops. And so now we not only have more troops, but also Al-Shabaab is being attacked on a number of fronts, including in Mogadishu, on the border with Kenya and from the border with Ethiopia.

The fight against piracy also offers prospects for beefing up the fight against Al-Shabaab. The pirates who have disrupted international trade through their actions on the high seas are incubated on mainland Somalia. Therefore, it is critical that we take advantage of the new situation to effectively link the anti-piracy fight with the overall struggle to stabilize Somalia. The re-establishment of the Somali State and the restoration of law and order to that country will be sure ways of dealing with the root causes of piracy.

As the Council is aware, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union has approved a strategic concept for future AMISOM operations in Somalia, based on a technical analysis and recommendation made by an AU-United Nations technical assessment team.

What, then, should our next steps be? We recommend in the main that, first, the Security Council approve the expansion of AMISOM force levels from 12,000 to 17,731, as requested by the AU Peace and Security Council; secondly, that the Council recognize that the fight against Al-Shabaab is now beyond Mogadishu; thirdly, that the Council enhance its support package to AMISOM adequately so that the assessed contributions of the United Nations cover the payment for force multipliers and enablers, as recommended in the strategic concept — this package should include compensation for contingent-owned equipment as well; and fourthly, that some of the resources being used to fight piracy be extended and linked to the effort to stabilize mainland Somalia. Uganda welcomes the initiative of the United Kingdom to convene a special summit on Somalia in London in February, and looks forward to a positive outcome in terms of mobilizing greater support for political, security, humanitarian and development efforts.

In order to allay any doubts, I want to make reference to some concerns I have heard since arriving in New York to the effect that there is lack of clarity about the command-and-control structure of the proposed expanded AMISOM force. Since Kenya entered Somalia and Ethiopia renewed support to the TFG allied forces, intensive consultations have been taking place at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya, President Yoweri Museveni and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia have been in constant contact on this matter.

The summit of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has held a number of extraordinary sessions on the matter of Somalia. Even before the joint AU-United Nations technical assessment team was formed, the IGAD summit had tasked the Chiefs of Defence Staff in our region to clearly articulate how the coordination of our forces in the field could be achieved. Until Friday last week, the only difference that existed at the level of the Chiefs of Defence Staff was the issue of whether the 12,000 troops contributed by Uganda and Burundi should all

be deployed in Mogadishu or if part of the force should be deployed in the newly liberated zones.

Last week, consensus was reached among the troop-contributing countries that the additional 2,700 troops to be deployed by Uganda and Burundi should not go to Mogadishu. Their deployment will take into account the liberated areas created by actions taken by Kenya and Ethiopia. Therefore, we, the Ministers of Defence of the troop-contributing countries, instructed our Chiefs of Defence Staff to further fine-tune the command-and-control architecture proposed by the joint AU-United Nations technical team to take account of this consensus. This is being done and will be ready within the next few days.

In conclusion, the consultations taking place at IGAD and the AU are intended not only to address the military aspects of our work in Somalia but, even more critically, to focus attention on the political question. We know only too well that the crisis in Somalia is basically of a political rather than of a military nature.

The President: I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Mammadyarov (Azerbaijan): First of all, I should like to welcome the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, Her Excellency Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane. I also thank Under-Secretary-General Lynn Pascoe; the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Ambassador Lamamra; and the representatives of the countries contributing troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for their very intensive and deep briefings.

I would like to express our support for the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia in its efforts to overcome difficulties, achieve reconciliation and build a secure, stable, united, democratic and prosperous nation. Let me also express our full support for AMISOM, commend the efforts of the Somali National Security Forces, and pay tribute to the troop-contributing countries. I would also like to commend the efforts of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its member States in contributing to achieving peace and national reconciliation in Somalia and mobilizing assistance to meet the urgent needs of the peoples affected by the humanitarian crisis in that country.

We must continue to approach the complex situation in Somalia with care and sensitivity and on the basis of a comprehensive strategy aimed at addressing the political, humanitarian and security problems in that country through the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders. As Somalia moves towards the end of the transition in August, special efforts should be made to protect security and the political gains of the past few years, and to ensure that all steps ultimately contribute to the delivery of the road map.

It is obvious that security gains on the ground cannot be consolidated without adequate assistance from the international community, including in providing AMISOM with all necessary resources to strengthen its capabilities and to contribute to the implementation of its mandate. As the Secretary-General makes clear in his recent report on Somalia, "the resources available to the United Nations and AMISOM for Somalia are not commensurate with the challenges or the mandates given" (*S/2011/759, para. 94*). We fully support the Secretary-General's view that Somalia needs sustained help in order to implement the road map. The decisions taken on 5 January by the African Union Peace and Security Council and its call on the Security Council in that regard should also be taken into careful consideration.

We also stress the importance of continued international assistance for the building of Somalia's security institutions. We take note of the need for adequate military assistance to fight asymmetric terrorist attacks.

We are gravely concerned that the humanitarian situation in Somalia continues to deteriorate. Azerbaijan has responded to the appeals of respective Governments and international organizations to provide urgent aid aimed at addressing the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa, including Somalia — the worst-affected country in the region. It is important that the international community continue to support Somalia, including by contributing to the United Nations consolidated appeal for that country. At the same time, all parties must allow unimpeded humanitarian access and refrain from actions that threaten the safety of the local population and those assisting them. There is also a need to redouble efforts to find long-term solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons in Somalia. Azerbaijan is ready to continue its support.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I would like to thank Mr. Pascoe and Commissioner Lamamra for their briefings today. I also thank you, Madam President, for your own important statement. I also welcome the insightful contributions from the Foreign Minister of Kenya and the Minister of Defence of Uganda.

As you yourself said, Madam President, we are discussing Somalia at a time of real opportunity. The current situation in Somalia is grave. Instability, drought and famine continue to blight the country and to inflict unimaginable suffering on the Somali people. But this is also a time of opportunity. We have entered a crucial year for the political process in Somalia, and there has been some progress on the ground in the area of security. Al-Shabaab is being driven back on several fronts in south-central Somalia. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has secured most of Mogadishu, and regional administrations continue to develop. The United Kingdom believes that we need to seize that opportunity to make real progress in Somalia and to deliver a better future for the Somali people. I would like to make four main points today: on the humanitarian situation, the political process, AMISOM and the upcoming London conference on Somalia.

First, we salute the work of the United Nations and other humanitarian actors in Somali to combat the famine and drought affecting the country. We also welcome the support from new donors to the United Nations consolidated appeal for Somalia. But it is vital that the international community continue to provide its sustained support for the relief effort. It is clear that more work needs to be done in that area.

Secondly, the United Kingdom is committed to supporting the United Nations-led Djibouti peace process and to working with Somalis and international partners to build a peaceful and stable Somalia. The transitional governmental arrangements under the Djibouti peace process end in August. We urge the Transitional Federal Institutions to avoid squabbling and to cooperate with each other to make substantive progress in the implementation of the road map before that date. In particular, it is imperative that we see progress on reconciliation and establish dialogue among all those who are willing to subscribe to a peaceful political process. Local and regional administrations can play an important role in that. The process for developing a new constitution must be more inclusive and representative, so that all Somalis feel that the new constitutional arrangements reflect a genuine national discussion. In short, it is time for Somalia to move out of transition and towards genuine legitimate and representative Government structures based on a constitutional process. Somalis themselves must determine their own governance structures. The international community will support them, but the transition must end in August.

Thirdly, I would like to welcome the considerable success that AMISOM and the Somali national security forces have achieved in recent months. That has been possible thanks to the commitment and courage of AMISOM troops. I would like to pay particular tribute to the Ugandan and Burundian contingents, who have suffered many losses in achieving that success. However, as Defence Minister Kiyonga said, the threat has not disappeared. Now more than ever, it is essential that we provide AMISOM the support that it needs to consolidate security in the areas it controls and to expand the secure areas as a part of a clear, realistic and coordinated military strategy.

We recognize that predictable and sustainable funding is essential for AMISOM to be able to operate effectively. That is why the United Kingdom is providing $15 million in uncaveated funding to the United Nations Trust Fund for AMISOM. That is in addition to the $6 million that we contributed in 2011. But such contributions are only a temporary solution. We are determined that a long-term solution be found to provide sustainable funding for AMISOM. AMISOM must be run in an effective, efficient and accountable manner. Regional States and AMISOM must coordinate effectively. A coordinated — indeed, integrated — regional approach is essential to security in Somalia. We welcome the United Nations-African Union cooperation at the operational level, and on peacekeeping more generally, and encourage the efforts of the African Union (AU) and its partners to further enhance AU peacekeeping capabilities. In that context, we take careful note of the report (see S/2012/19, annex) of the African Union Peace and Security Council following the technical assessment mission. However, the report leaves a number of questions unanswered, as Mr. Pascoe explained. We therefore look forward to more detailed information and recommendations in the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General. The United Kingdom will consider those recommendations carefully, and we are ready to

lead the Council's response to them in the month of February.

Fourthly, the United Kingdom believes that there is an opportunity now to address the wider strategic challenges facing Somalia. That opportunity should not be squandered. That is why British Prime Minister David Cameron will hold a conference in London on 23 February to discuss how the international community might more effectively support progress towards peace and stability in Somalia. The United Nations and our African partners will of course continue to lead for the international community, but the United Kingdom aims to act as a catalyst for a new action-oriented international approach to supporting their efforts in Somalia.

Finally, the problem of piracy remains a serious threat to the international community as a whole. It destabilizes Somalia and undermines our efforts to promote the rule of law and security. As a contribution to those efforts, we will also use the London conference to promote industry engagement in regional maritime capacity-building.

Now more than ever, there is an opportunity to build stability in Somalia. Now we believe is the time for the international community to come together and to act. We must take that opportunity and achieve real and sustainable progress in the coming months.

Mr. Li Baodong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I welcome you here today, Madam President, to preside over this meeting. I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Lynn Pascoe; African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security Ramtane Lamamra; His Excellency Mr. Moses Wetangula, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kenya; and His Excellency Mr. Crispus Kiyonga, Minister of Defence of Uganda for their statements. I also welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan at our meeting today.

There has been some progress in the current situation in Somalia. All parties in Somalia are continuing their efforts to implement the road map for the end of the transition. They have also taken important steps in drafting a constitution and reforming the Parliament. Somalia's security forces and the military operations of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) continue to produce significant results. The areas under Al-Shabaab control continue to diminish in size. The international community has paid greater attention and made greater inputs into the situation in Somalia. We now face a rare historic window of opportunity to address the question of Somalia. At the same time, we should also be aware of the serious challenges facing Somalia in the political, security and humanitarian spheres.

Effectively implementing the road map is key to lasting peace and stability in Somalia. All parties concerned in Somalia should take advantage of the current favourable opportunity by fully implementing the road map and concluding the transition on schedule. The international community should also provide greater support to Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG). The TFG should maintain its internal unity, which is important in order to ensure peace and stability in the country.

China has noted that the Transitional Federal Parliament is facing a number of serious internal differences. We hope that all parties concerned can strengthen their communication and mutual trust, addressing their differences through dialogue so as to avert any unnecessary disruption in the peace process in Somalia.

China welcomes the achievements registered by the Somali security forces and AMISOM in their military operations. China appreciates the contributions made by the United Nations, the African Union, other international and regional organizations and the Governments of Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti.

We hope that Somalia's TFG can take effective measures to bring about peace and stability in the area under its control. The African Union is playing a crucial role in addressing Somalia's problems. The United Nations should attach great importance to its requests and recommendations.

The AU recently adopted a strategic concept for the future operations of AMISOM that calls for an increase in its troop strength, an expansion of its areas of responsibility and an increase in United Nations logistical support, which will help to promote peace and stability in Somalia. China welcomes those recommendations and hopes that the Security Council will respond positively to them.

China remains concerned at the serious humanitarian situation in Somalia. We appreciate the relief efforts undertaken by the international

humanitarian organizations operating there and urge all parties concerned fully to cooperate with the international community in that respect. We call upon the international community to continue to provide Somalia with more effective support.

Mr. Moraes Cabral (Portugal): Somalia is experiencing important changes at several levels. We fully subscribe to the Secretary-General's assessment that it is time to take advantage of the existing window of opportunity in three different but interlinked dimensions: the security, humanitarian and political dimensions.

I should therefore like to start by thanking you, Madam President, for having convened today's debate, which brings together key partners to exchange views at this critical juncture for Somalia, and also for your important statement.

Allow me to greet the Ministers of Azerbaijan, Kenya and Uganda and to thank them for their very useful contributions to our debate, and also to thank Under-Secretary-General Lynn Pascoe and Commissioner Lamamra for their very comprehensive briefings.

Portugal agrees with the assessment that it is essential to consolidate the gains made on the ground, both in Mogadishu and elsewhere in the country, by ensuring the delivery of basic services to the population, promoting good governance and safeguarding peace and security in Somalia. Doing so will ensure that the efforts and sacrifices made by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), regional partners and the Somali security forces, all of which we commend, will also be honoured.

Safeguarding peace and security is a task to be fulfilled in the first instance by the Somali military and police forces. That is an objective to which we will continue to contribute, namely through the European Union's training mission in Somalia.

Nevertheless, AMISOM has played, and will continue to play, a crucial role in supporting and protecting the Transitional Federal Institutions. We reiterate our support for the Mission and look forward to the Secretary-General's report in the light of the recent recommendations of the African Union Peace and Security Council for AMISOM's future operations.

At the same time, Portugal believes that the acceleration of the deployment of additional troops will positively contribute to filling the security vacuum created in the areas liberated from Al-Shabaab's presence. In that regard, we express our appreciation to Burundi and Uganda for their willingness to deploy additional troops to reach the current United Nations-authorized strength of 12,000 troops, and we pay tribute to the courage of and the sacrifices made by their soldiers.

We take this opportunity also to acknowledge the efforts made so far by all partners involved in military action to minimize the negative impact of military intervention on Somali civilians, and we encourage them to continue to do so, as well as to promote the safety and welfare of civilians fleeing conflict and the food crisis in the country.

Despite the positive trends, Al-Shabaab attacks, which are still a reality, along with continuing famine throughout the country and the piracy off the coast of Somalia, highlight the importance of ensuring the successful implementation of the road map, as military action alone will not create lasting peace in Somalia.

Within the framework of the Kampala Accord and the road map to end the transition in Somalia, some progress has been achieved, the most recent being the holding of the Garowe constitutional conference. However, many challenges still lie ahead. We call on the signatories to the Kampala Accord to ensure cohesion, unity and focus on the completion of the priority tasks, so that the transitional period may indeed come to an end in August.

As Portugal has stated previously, it is also of paramount importance to ensure inclusiveness and representativeness throughout that process — and we recall to that end the constructive role that women can play in that context — as well as ensuring full respect for human rights.

On the humanitarian front, we remain deeply concerned over the prolonged nature of the crisis and the famine that continues to prevail throughout the country. We are nevertheless encouraged by the enduring efforts being made on the ground by all the humanitarian partners against a background of very challenging conditions. However, assistance will be fruitful only if it reaches those in need in a timely way. To that end, we urge all partners to ensure full and unhindered access for humanitarian aid across Somalia.

The Secretary-General's visit to Somalia was an unequivocal sign of the political commitment of the international community to the country and its people. We call on the Somali parties to continue to pursue the path towards peace and stability. For its part, Portugal will continue its efforts within various forums to help to define a strategy that comprehensively addresses the multiple challenges that Somalia faces at the political, security, humanitarian, human rights and socio-economic levels. In that context, we very much welcome the upcoming conference in London.

In concluding, let me also extend a word of appreciation for the work carried out by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Mahiga, and the commitment of the African Union and other regional partners to make the current moment, as Mr. Ban Ki-moon underlined last month, "a moment of fresh opportunities" for the future of the Somali people (see S/PV.6681).

Mr. Briens (France) (*spoke in French*): Allow me at the outset to thank you, Madam President, for having convened this meeting, which makes it possible to strengthen the dialogue and coordination between the African Union and the United Nations on the question of Somalia. In that respect, I should like to thank Commissioner Lamamra for having made the trip to New York to present the positions of the African Union, as well as the Ministers of Kenya and of Uganda. Lastly, I thank Mr. Pascoe for his presentation.

On the political front, a key milestone was achieved with the adoption on 6 September last by the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) in Somalia, the Presidents of Puntland and of Galmudug, and representatives of Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a of the road map setting out the priority tasks to be carried out by 20 August 2012. The timely implementation of all components of that road map is now imperative. Although the TFIs face considerable challenges, they must nevertheless take advantage without delay of the favourable developments in the security situation in Mogadishu so as to implement the objectives set out in the road map. We also expect the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to be genuinely proactive in the fight against maritime piracy.

The report of the Secretary-General dated 9 December 2011 (S/2011/759) makes clear that insufficient progress has been made in the implementation of the road map. Moreover, the parliamentary crisis that started on 13 December with the attempt to dismiss the speaker continues. In those conditions, our vigilance with respect to the action of the Transitional Institutions is only heightened.

As the Council has already pointed out, the continuing support of the international community for the Transitional Institutions will depend on the implementation of the road map in the set timeframe. Those who would impede the peace process, as well as peace and security in Somalia, could be subject to Security Council sanctions.

However, we must also note the positive developments. Significant progress has been made on the constitutional aspect of the road map and on parliamentary reform. The national conference on the constitutional process, which was held from 21 to 23 December 2011 in Garowe, in Puntland, was a relative success, as it made it possible to set clear principles for the next steps of that process. That progress must now be consolidated and the efforts continued and supported.

On the security front, the success of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali security forces in recent months has made it possible to regain control of new areas of Mogadishu and its surroundings. Such results must be welcomed, while the troops deployed on the ground undertake their work in particularly difficult conditions. Such progress on the ground was confirmed by the visit of the Secretary-General to Mogadishu last December, for the first time in 18 years, and the announcement of a return of United Nations agencies to the Somali capital. Those are positive signs for the future, on which we can congratulate ourselves and that we welcome.

Similarly, the intervention led by Kenya since October 2011, which was simultaneously carried out by Ethiopia, relying on militias in the Somali west, have also helped to weaken Al-Shabaab. We are delighted by that weakening of Al-Shabaab, which is an encouraging sign for the future of the political transition.

In that context, the African Union has submitted detailed requests to the Security Council to strengthen AMISOM, while the situation indeed seems favourable. As we have heard, those requests in particular entail raising the troop ceiling and extending

the scope of the logistical support package. The new strategic concept for AMISOM on 5 January (see S/2012/19, annex) specifies the context in which those requests are made. That strategic concept must now undergo a thorough political, operational and financial review, in particular on the basis of the report that the Secretary-General will soon submit to us.

Moreover, we recall that establishing credible Somali security forces is also essential. That is an issue of political credibility for the Transitional Federal Government. It is those forces that should take over from AMISOM as soon as possible, and thus complete the stabilization of the country in terms of security.

I will conclude by raising the humanitarian situation, which is still a matter of concern. Four million people, including 3 million in the south, still need food assistance, while access to humanitarian aid is possible only for approximately 1.5 million people, given the deteriorating security situation and cases of food aid being diverted.

The United Nations, like humanitarian non-governmental organizations, provides vital support to the population affected by the famine in the entire region. We continue to stand ready to respond to the food crisis in the Horn of Africa. Unimpeded access of humanitarian aid must be ensured.

Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish to start by welcoming the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of South Africa, Her Excellency Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, and by expressing appreciation for her having agreed to preside over our meetings this morning and this afternoon. Secondly, I would like to thank the representative of the African Union Commission, Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, for his briefing to us, as well as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kenya and the Minister of Defence of Uganda for their statements. I also thank Mr. Lynn Pascoe for providing a briefing to inform our discussion.

This meeting is related to the debate to be held tomorrow on the cooperation between the African Union and United Nations, given that the United Nations has established an important strategic partnership with the African Union in Somalia. The excellent work done by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the recent collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union in planning the next phase of AMISOM operations are both illustrations and the product of that close cooperation.

The historic visit of the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly to Somalia took place barely a month ago. The momentum generated by that visit certainly contributed to the outcome of the national constitutional conference, held in Garowe from 21 to 23 December 2011. The principles agreed at the conference, with the established deadlines, show the commitment of the national institutions to complete the transition period before 20 August.

We agree with representatives who have underscored the importance of implementing the road map and the Kampala Accord. It is essential for the Transitional Federal Government to show leadership and resolve the parliamentary crisis. It must also improve accountability and transparency. Achieving such goals would bolster the trust of the international community. In this last phase of the transition period, the political process must be inclusive and representative of the Somali people.

We also agree with the need to make a coordinated and consistent effort against Al-Shabaab. We are aware that AMISOM continues to face a serious lack of resources and, for that second phase of operations, it needs adequate, guaranteed and predictable funding. We appreciate the inputs provided today, as well as the communiqué of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union of 5 January, in which it requests the Security Council to strengthen AMISOM (see S/2012/19, annex). We will consider that request together with the recommendations of the Secretary-General.

We also believe that it is important to maintain a comprehensive approach in Somalia. The security strategy must go hand in hand with implementing the road map. The long-term consequences of the humanitarian disaster and the economic development agenda must continue to be priorities. Humanitarian aid must continue for the time being.

In that regard, we very much hope that the upcoming meetings — both the conference in London in February and, later, the United Nations conference in Istanbul — will help to bring the transitional period in Somalia to an end and lead to a more stable and solid system of governance. Lastly, we support the statement to the press to be made following this

meeting and we welcome the efforts of the United Kingdom in preparing it.

Mr. Tarar (Pakistan): We thank you, Madam, for convening this meeting. We welcome the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Kenya and the Minister of Defence of Uganda, and thank them for their statements. We also welcome the Foreign Minister of Uganda, and thank the Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs and the African Union (AU) Commissioner for Peace and Security for their briefings.

Eighteen years ago on a hot summer day, 24 Pakistani peacekeepers wearing the United Nations Blue Helmet laid down their lives in Mogadishu while saving their colleagues belonging to other nations. Fifty-seven Pakistani soldiers were injured in the incident. Pakistan's association with the cause of Somali peace has grown ever since. This loss did not deter us from continuing our engagement with Somalia and our Somali brethren, whose cause of lasting peace and stability Pakistan has supported all along. We therefore associate ourselves strongly with the purpose of this meeting and value the briefings given earlier. We shall work for Security Council's sustained engagement with Somalia and encourage contacts with and coherence in the work of the African Union on the subject.

We extend our full support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and welcome the strategic concept of its operations, which has been endorsed by the African Union Peace and Security Council. The briefing of the countries contributing troops to AMISOM provided us with an important insight into the challenges faced by them in implementing their mandate with sparse resources. We commend their efforts. Predictable and continuous funding for AMISOM must be ensured. The increase of AMISOM uniformed personnel from 12,000 to 17,731 will help consolidate the gains made recently. A well-equipped and motivated AMISOM can better deliver on the ground. The international partners of Somalia and the Security Council must work in tandem to improve peacekeeping operations in Somalia.

The development and enhancement of the security forces of the Transitional Federal Government are essential ingredients of the strategic concept. We believe that international assistance, including through wider engagement of the United Nations peacekeeping architecture, can be enlisted for the purpose.

We share the concern expressed by speakers about the situation in Somalia. Drought and famine have exacerbated the humanitarian situation. Noting that all international projections point to the continuation of the humanitarian crisis into 2012, we call upon the international partners to remain seized of the matter.

On the political front, we welcome the progress made towards constitution-making, as manifested in the Garowe Conference. Such progress paves the way for the smoother implementation of Kampala Accord and the political road map, as well as an amicable resolution of the current parliamentary crisis. In this regard, we support efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the AU and the United Nations. We look forward to the London conference and hope that it will prove to be an important milestone in Somalia's journey towards peace and stability.

Somalia's multidimensional challenges and problems necessitate a comprehensive approach that takes into account political, security, economic and environmental factors. Such an approach will also help end the menace of piracy off the coast of Somalia. We believe that the African Union's sustained engagement with Somalia augurs well for peace and stability in that country and the subregion. The Security Council would do well to seize this opportunity and make amends for years of neglect suffered by Somalia.

Pakistan has worked for peace in Somalia over the years, including in our previous term on the Security Council. We have also been active in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Contact Group on Somalia and the United Nations Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. We will remain a steadfast partner of Somalia.

Mr. DeLaurentis (United States of America): We welcome you to the Council today, Madam, as well as the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, and we thank you both for your statements.

I would like to thank African Union (AU) Peace and Security Commissioner Lamamra and Under-Secretary-General Pascoe for their briefings. I would also like to thank the Ministers of Kenya and Uganda for their presentations and for the deep commitment and valuable support their countries have shown to

Somalia. Working closely with the representatives of the troop-contributing countries, the joint United Nations-AU assessment mission has done excellent work in providing the basis for the briefings we have heard today.

Somalia continues to face Africa's most complex challenges. Although famine conditions have eased in some parts of the country, 3.7 million Somalis are still in need of humanitarian assistance. Nearly 1 million Somalis live in exile, and 1.5 million are displaced and experiencing famine conditions. All parties must ensure immediate and unfettered access to those in need of emergency humanitarian assistance.

We should like to thank Member States for their generous support of the United Nations 2011 Somalia consolidated appeal, which was funded at 82 per cent. Still, there are many gaps. For example, the protection cluster was funded at only 17 per cent, thwarting efforts to better protect vulnerable women and girls. The recently launched 2012 consolidated appeal requests $1.5 billion. The United States urges Member States to support this appeal. Total United States humanitarian assistance to the region since 1 October 2010 is $870 million, $250 million of which have been used for Somalia.

Meanwhile, Al-Shabaab continues its despicable acts, including suicide bombings, attacks on civilians and humanitarian workers, and the expulsion of humanitarian organizations at the height of the world's gravest humanitarian catastrophe. At the same time, we have a moment of opportunity to turn the tide of violence, poverty and despair in Somalia. The remarkable ceurage of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and its Ugandan and Burundian troops has helped to liberate Mogadishu from Al-Shabaab's occupation. We welcome Djibouti's deployment and urge the African Union and Djibouti promptly to resolve any remaining questions about how best to integrate Djiboutian troops into the Mission. Kenya and Ethiopia have thrown their weight behind the effort to defeat Al-Shabaab, and we welcome their contributions as well.

The Kampala Accord, the road map and the Garowe Conference outcome have all created momentum for critical political reforms that must complement early security gains. As difficult as it is for all of us at a time of severe resource austerity, it is imperative that the international community seize the moment in Somalia. We must come together and rise to meet these new challenges. It would be foolish to turn our backs on our collective successes thus far. They are our shared responsibility.

We have listened carefully to the African Union's calls to increase AMISOM's troop ceiling beyond the current mandated strength, and to the various proposals to expand the use of United Nations-assessed funding to support AMISOM. We await further details from the AU, particularly concerning the command-and-control architecture, as well as the Secretariat's report, including its cost analysis of the AU's recommendations, and the assessment made by the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM of support needs for the AU's operations outside of Mogadishu. We will give these proposals thorough and prompt consideration, and call for a follow-on discussion as soon as practical.

The United States intends to continue its strong bilateral support to AMISOM troop-contributing countries (TCCs). To date, we have committed more than $337 million worth of training, equipment and logistic support to AMISOM and its TCCs — in addition to our assessment for the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM. Furthermore, we have committed more than $106 million worth of training, equipment and other support to develop the capacity of Somali security forces. We urge other Member States to provide in-kind support or contributions to the Trust Fund, without caveats, to fund urgently needed projects, including reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment. As AMISOM expands its footprint, it is imperative that it have predictable and uncaveated funding to sustain its operations.

While AMISOM plays a critical role, a coherent and achievable political strategy must be in place. The Kampala Accord and road map to end the transition are key to achieving long-lasting peace and stability in Somalia. We call upon all Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), including Parliament as well as other signatories, to meet their obligations and responsibilities for the implementation of the road map. Let me be absolutely clear on this point: we will hold the road map signatories to account. They are responsible for achieving the tasks outlined in the road map, including an agreed upon constitution, parliamentary reform and credible and transparent elections. Any further support by the United States will be contingent upon the successful completion of the

key tasks of the road map. We will stand by Somalia's side, but we are prepared to walk away if the TFG and the TFIs cannot show concrete, measurable progress in 2012.

There is some reason for optimism. While the road map process is far from complete, the December Garowe Conference, attended by the signatories of the road map, represents a significant and positive step forward on the completion of the key task of constitutional and parliamentary reform and the indirect election of a president and speaker of Parliament by August 2012. The Garowe principles, agreed to by the senior political leadership, now need further discussion and consideration by a broader cross-section of the Somali people, including civil society, which we urge begin with the second phase of the Garowe conference to be held later this month. We welcome the initiative of United Kingdom Prime Minister David Cameron to host the 23 February high-level conference in London to maintain momentum for the political and security success and to build international consensus and support for the path forward in Somalia.

Finally, let me reiterate our strong support of the United Nations efforts in Somalia. The historic visit last month by the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly is evidence of their commitment to restoring peace and stability in Somalia. The United States commends and fully supports the decision to move the headquarters of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia to Mogadishu this month. We thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Mahiga for his efforts and urge him to remain focused on compliance with the benchmarks and timelines set by the road map signatories in accordance with the Kampala Accord.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): At the outset, let me thank you, Madam President, for presiding over this important meeting. We deeply appreciate the time that you are personally devoting to this issue by presiding over the Council's deliberations. I would also like to place on record our appreciation for the participation of Commissioner Lamamra and the Ministers from Kenya, Uganda and Azerbaijan in today's meeting, as well as for their valuable statements. I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Lynn Pascoe for his briefing.

The situation in Somalia is at a crossroads. Two decades of instability and insecurity have taken their political, economic and social tolls and will require the concerted long-term commitment of the international community to assist the Somali people in their efforts at restoring peace, security and economic development in their country. The effective engagement of the international community during 2011 helped tide over the worst phase of the humanitarian crisis in Somalia. However, approximately 250,000 people remain at risk, and there is a need to persevere with our efforts to deal with the many problems.

On the political front, the extended transition period has seen the adoption of a comprehensive road map by the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), in accordance with the June 2011 Kampala Accord. The implementation of the road map is critical — in particular the drafting and adoption of the constitution, its endorsement by a constituent assembly, and parliamentary reforms — with a view to ending the transition in a timely manner by August 2012. In that regard, we have noted that several concrete measures have been taken by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). We welcome that the technical committee comprised of representatives of the TFIs, regions and the international community met twice and agreed to track progress through four subcommittees. On the other hand, the TFIs have missed a number of deadlines in the implementation of the road map. The recent developments concerning the speaker have the potential to derail the implementation of the road map; they are therefore of serious concern. We therefore urge all stakeholders to resolve their differences and expedite the implementation of the road map.

On security front, we commend the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and TFG forces for the gains made against Al-Shabaab. We also commend troop-contributing countries for the sacrifices made by their soldiers in Somalia. Nevertheless, Al-Shabaab has shown that it is capable of carrying out almost daily attacks, including against high-profile targets. In that connection, we welcome the operations being undertaken by Kenyan and Ethiopian forces in coordination with the AMISOM and TFG forces.

There is also a need for the Security Council to take further measures in support of the TFG to restrict the resources that Al-Shabaab earns from use of ports and the export of charcoal. We request that the

Secretary-General submit a report to the Council on the requirements, in terms of naval and other assets, that would be needed for the international community to be able to interdict vessels that visit Kishmayo and other ports and profit Al-Shabaab and pirates in Somalia. Such a report would allow the Council to take an informed decision on the request of the African Union concerning use of ports by Al-Shabaab and pirates.

Since AMISOM is the mainstay of the efforts of the international community for dealing with the security situation in Somalia, it is necessary that AMISOM be further strengthened. AMISOM continues to face serious resource gaps. The Council should expeditiously and favourably consider the recommendations of the African Union and troop-contributing countries on the support extended to AMISOM by the United Nations and the international community. Its funding must be made adequate, secure and predictable. It is also necessary to provide AMISOM with enablers and force multipliers such as helicopter units, transport and engineering capabilities. We support their inclusion within the United Nations support package.

There is also a need to expand TFG forces and to strengthen their capacities for the long-term stability and security of Somalia. New recruitments have to be undertaken, as well as full training and the provision of proper equipment. We call on the Member States to make uncaveated contributions to the United Nations and African Union trust funds for AMISOM and to enhance their support for TFG forces. For its part, India contributed $2 million to the African Union and United Nations Trust Funds, without any caveats, for AMISOM operations last year. We stand ready to provide further support to AMISOM.

Piracy off the coast of Somalia remains a serious problem facing the international community. As of 31 October 2011, Somali pirates held 19 ships and 331 hostages. Combating maritime piracy is therefore an important issue that is intrinsically linked to the security situation in Somalia. So far, the TFIs have paid little attention to that problem. We think that the benchmarks on piracy in the road map outlining transition tasks should be expeditiously implemented by the TFIs, including in such areas as the demarcation of an exclusive economic zone, the establishment of an operational coast guard and a navy and the adoption of a legal framework to address piracy, hostage-taking and payments of ransom, among other aspects. We also stand ready to help in building the capacity of the TFIs and States in the region to take effective measures against piracy off the coast of Somalia.

Moreover, given the growing scope and expanding coverage of the problem, the international community has to think about adopting a comprehensive counter-piracy strategy. In our view, such a strategy should involve a United Nations-led anti-piracy force to conduct naval operations, which would help to improve coordination in anti-piracy operations by various naval forces. The strategy should also provide for the enactment of national laws on giving priority to criminalizing piracy, as defined in the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea. The strategy should contain measures to effectively sanitize the Somali coastline and identify safe corridors and buffer zones.

India has already taken several steps, including anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden since 2008, and has also deployed its ships in the eastern and north-eastern Arabian Sea. That has helped to neutralize several attempts at piracy. While we will continue our counter-piracy operations, there is also an urgent need for the international community to address the serious problem of hostage-taking by pirates and the consequent humanitarian problems faced by hostages and their families.

In conclusion, the situation in Somalia calls for the enhanced engagement of the international community with the Somali federal and regional authorities to comprehensively address the multitude of problems in the political, security, humanitarian and counter-piracy fields. The Council should stand ready to take the lead in all of those efforts.

Mr. Menan (Togo) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate South Africa on having assumed the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January, as well as to welcome you, Madam Minister, as you lead the Council in its discussions today. I also wish to thank your country for having organized this meeting, in which representatives of the African Union and countries of the subregion are taking part, specifically Kenya and Uganda. I welcome the presence of their distinguished representatives in the Chamber. Finally, I wish to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union for their briefings.

Togo welcomes the fact that Somalia is truly a central concern of the Security Council, which last year held several meetings and adopted a number of resolutions on issues related to that country.

The situation in Somalia, which has long been unstable, has recently been taking a positive turn in the political, security and humanitarian assistance areas, as detailed in the most recent report of the Secretary-General, issued on 9 December 2011 (S/2011/759).

My country welcomes the adoption, by the Transitional Federal Institutions, of the road map for ending the Somali transition by 20 August. The success of that comprehensive programme depends on the willingness of the various political actors to work together. My country urges them to do so. Obviously, that success is also contingent on the provision of sustained and meaningful financial support by the international community.

While the future seems promising for Somalia, the present still remains a cause for deep concern in terms of the security situation. In his report, the Secretary-General confirms that the capital city of Mogadishu, which is now controlled almost entirely by the Transitional Federal Government, is not safe from indiscriminate attacks carried out by armed elements and former Al-Shabaab fighters wearing Transitional Federal Government uniforms.

Suicide attacks are terrorizing the population and justify the deployment of additional troops to control the 16 districts of the capital. However, Mogadishu is obviously not the only city in Somalia. Somalis are being targeted by Al-Shabaab in other regions of the country. In that regard, we are pleased that the countries deploying troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), as well as other countries of the region, agreed to continue joint planning activities in order to develop options for tying together all ongoing military operations in Somalia into a coordinated and coherent effort against Al-Shabaab, as well as to extend the authority of the Transitional Federal Government beyond the capital.

The execution of that ambitious plan, in a country where weapons are in wide circulation and can be bought for next to nothing, requires troops and additional resources. That is why the African Union Peace and Security Council is justified in requesting that the Security Council increase the number of AMISOM troops, which could reach a strength of 17,000.

Togo welcomes the conclusions of the meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council held on 5 January, in which formal recommendations were made to expand the force as a necessary step towards improving the security situation in Somalia and achieving peace and reconciliation by implementing the Kampala Accord and the Mogadishu road map.

The fight against insecurity in the world is being waged, as evidenced by the measures currently under consideration by the Security Council. Nevertheless, insecurity on the high seas persists. Although the frequency of acts of piracy has diminished to some extent, several ships and dozens of hostages remain in the hands of pirates.

The fight against piracy should be merciless, as the success of that phenomenon in Somalia is being emulated elsewhere, in particular in the Gulf of Guinea. The fight should be coordinated. Any assistance provided to the countries of the subregion in patrolling their coastlines must effectively confront the pirates. In that context, Togo welcomes the dynamic steps taken by the European Union, NATO and Combined Task Force 151, a multinational coalition naval force, which have reduced the number of attacks on and seizures of ships.

Togo reiterates its support for the relevant Security Council resolutions on the issue of piracy and invites the States of the region to join forces with the international community, not only to hunt down the pirates but also, most important, to cut off their means of support. It is encouraging to note that the United Nations has become very much involved in that fight by cooperating closely with such international organizations as the International Maritime Organization (IMO). In the course of the twenty-seventh session of its biennial Assembly, on 30 November 2011, the IMO adopted a resolution on piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia. By doing so, the IMO renewed the commitment of its members to effectively continue the combat that scourge with a view to eliminating it entirely, while at the same time respecting international law. But it also called upon countries whose ships are flying their flag to adopt precautionary measures to help prevent attacks and to provide security for ships.

We feel that it is important to point out that the support provided to the Transitional Federal Government authorities to tackle such criminal acts should not only be focused on material means, but also on capacity-building and judicial assistance in order to make it possible to prosecute the pirates who have been arrested.

It is clear that all the sacrifices made by AMISOM's soldiers, all the hardships experienced by the Somali people and all the material and financial commitments made by the international community will only be rewarded by peace in Somalia if the measures taken by the Security Council are upheld by all States. Violations prevent a swift settlement of the matter, which would only worsen the hardship felt by the Somali population.

Togo believes that the countries of the Horn of Africa should overcome their differences and pool their efforts with a view to freeing neighbouring Somalia from the tyranny of interest groups and to allow the subregion as a whole to enjoy peace, security and stability.

I would like to conclude by briefly referring to the humanitarian situation, which, although tragic a few weeks ago, has improved gradually thanks to the action taken by humanitarian organizations and to the aid provided by several countries, which Togo welcomes. Protection and support for refugees should continue to be of major concern for the United Nations.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): At the outset, let me welcome you, Madam President, and thank you for convening today's meeting and presiding over it. It is an important meeting that we are having today on Somalia.

I would like to join others in thanking Under-Secretary-General Lynn Pascoe and Ambassador Lamamra for their briefings. By the same token, I would like to welcome the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kenya, Mr. Moses Wetangula; the Minister of Defence of Uganda, Mr. Crispus Kiyonga; and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov.

Let me focus briefly on three points, namely, first, the future posture, composition and support of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM); secondly, the political state of play and the way forward, especially after the end of the transitional period; and thirdly, very briefly, the relocation of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) to that country, specifically to Mogadishu.

First, I would like to reiterate our strong support for AMISOM. The African Union (AU) peacekeeping force in Somalia provides an excellent example of an African response to an African crisis and deserves our continued political, strategic and financial support. We took note of the new AU strategic concept for AMISOM operations that was recently shared with us (see S/2012/19, annex). We welcome the continued commitment of the AU and its member States to the Mission, and we commend Uganda and Burundi for contributing troops to the peacekeeping force. We express our sympathy for the losses they have suffered, and we appreciate the arrival in Mogadishu of the first troops from Djibouti.

We also took note of the communiqué of the AU Peace and Security Council of 5 January, which endorses the increase of the AMISOM troop level to a strength of up to 17,700, including troops from Djibouti and rehatted Kenyan forces. We are ready to work constructively with other Council members to consider enhancing the support for AMISOM.

Let me now turn briefly to my second point — AMISOM's recent military achievements. The successful training of Somali security forces by the AU training mission in Somalia and their subsequent deployment, and especially the liberation of almost all of Mogadishu and other parts of the country, contrast clearly with the continued lack of political progress. Although the Garowe meeting had positive results and some provisions of the road map have been implemented, we are worried about the considerable delays in other areas and about the renewed infighting among some of Somalia's political players.

We call on the Transitional Federal Institutions to make the best possible use of the remaining months until August in order to move the transition process forward at last. In the interests of the people of Somalia, further progress needs to be made in such core areas as constitutional reform, basic security, political outreach and reconciliation, good governance and institutional reform. At this stage, we believe that another extension of the transitional period is neither in the interests of the Somali people nor of the international community.

The Somali people and the international community must now agree on what succeeds the transitional arrangements. The discussion among Somali stakeholders in Garowe in December and the principles agreed there are a first step on that path. We welcome the upcoming London conference to be convoked by the British Government as an opportunity to hold further discussions concerning the immediate future of Somalia.

My third point relates to the recent announcement of the Secretary-General to relocate United Nations staff to Somalia and Mogadishu, in particular UNPOS. My delegation has always favoured the swift relocation of United Nations staff from Nairobi. We understand that the process is difficult and involves personnel and administrative challenges. Nevertheless, we are convinced that the move will further help UNPOS to support the Somali people and provide access to the situation on the ground.

Mr. Loulichki (Morocco) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me, at the outset, to congratulate you, Madam President, on presiding over the Security Council in this first month of 2012. I would also like to specifically thank Mr. Lynn Pascoe and my colleague and friend Mr. Ramtane Lamamra for their briefings. I also welcome the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Kenya and Azerbaijan and the Minister of Defence of Uganda.

After two decades of war, Somalia appears now to be seeing signs of progress and hope, although we realize that there is still a long road ahead. In recent months, Somalia has made considerable strides in political terms, including the signing, on 6 December 2011, of the road map and the adoption of the Garowe principles by the Transitional Federal Government in January 2012.

There have also been gains on the security front following the strikes against the Al-Shabaab movement in Mogadishu and other regions of Somalia. That was the result of resistance by the Transitional Federal Government and the robust measures taken by neighbouring countries. It was also due to the ongoing support of the international community.

However, despite those clearly important achievements, considerable challenges remain to be addressed. In political terms, we note the difficulties with regard to the implementation of the road map and the major delays in implementing several of its provisions. In addition, increasing tensions between the authorities of Puntland and Somaliland as well as other so-called regional authorities could undermine what has been achieved politically to date.

On behalf of my country, I should like to commend the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Mahiga, for the successful meeting held in Garoowe, which laid out a specific timetable for ending the transition period. In the months ahead, we will need to work to support the Somali authorities in this critical transition period, and we will need to effectively support the implementation of the road map and the capacity-building process of the Federal Government in Somalia.

We will also need to help strengthen initiatives aimed at national reconciliation. In humanitarian terms, and despite the halving of the risk of hunger in certain regions, the situation in certain regions remains very fragile and grave, and millions of Somalis are in a precarious state in humanitarian terms. In that regard, I welcome the serious and outstanding efforts made by the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and non-governmental organizations, which have supported the people of Somalia in dealing with the varied challenges they face in terms of security.

Despite the major strides made, the attack in October in Mogadishu by elements of Al-Shabaab and their attempt to retake some Somali cities makes clear that the process is still fragile and that that movement still poses a threat to the safety and security of the region as a whole. Piracy and hostage-taking represent yet another challenge that will need to be addressed with unrelenting determination.

In the area of security, in more general terms I should like to thank Djibouti for its decision to deploy troops together with the Burundian and Ugandan troops, who are working under very difficult political and security conditions. That reinforcement comes at the right time, and it could help the Transitional Federal Government to gain greater control of the situation. We believe that the increase in AMISOM's troop strength to the level of 17,900 will have a major impact on the ground, particularly given the sensitive situation in the country. The international community will need to provide sufficient and necessary support to AMISOM so that it can carry out its mission appropriately.

The successes achieved in recent months are the result of enhanced cooperation and coordination between the Somali authorities and various actors and organizations, including the League of Arab States, the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the neighbouring countries. In that regard, we hope that this cooperation will continue and be strengthened so that it can bolster the sincere will of the Somali authorities to restore security and stability.

The people of Somalia have suffered for decades from being forgotten. They are at the point of despair with respect to international solidarity, and the authorities are looking for assistance sufficient to face the challenges, so that the people can have a normal life, under stable conditions, in a sensitive and extremely strategic region.

Mr. Osorio (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*) Allow me at the outset, Madam, to welcome you and to congratulate you on your presiding over the Security Council today. I wish also to thank you for having convened this very important debate on an issue that we have been dealing with on a continuing basis owing to its dimensions and implications.

Mr. Lynn Pascoe's report was very detailed and very serious, and we thank him for it. We also express our gratitude for the statements made by the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, and by the Ministers of Kenya and Uganda, who have made important contributions.

In his most recent report on Somalia (S/2011/759), the Secretary-General draws our attention to the fragility of the situation in the country and stresses that we must consolidate the gains made on various fronts. Thus, while keeping in mind the fact that the restoration of security, political stability, the rule of law and economic development are the primary responsibility of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), it is imperative that the international community provide support in the strengthening of State institutions.

In terms of security, the work and the presence of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is crucial to the stabilization of Somalia. For that reason, there is an urgent need to ensure that the Mission has at its disposal the resources and equipment necessary to fulfil its mandate and to improve the living conditions of the contingents. In that regard, we welcome the recommendations adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on 5 January last with respect to future AMISOM operations. As many speakers have noted today, those are key elements in the development of a comprehensive strategy in Somalia that would promote coordination between security and political requirements, with a view to stabilizing the situation.

The Council has acknowledged the urgent need to ensure predictable, reliable and timely resources to help AMISOM discharge its mandate. The Council must therefore give careful consideration to the request to authorize an increased number of troops for the Mission as well as to other recommendations contained in the African Union communiqué. As forces authorized by the Council are being deployed, they must also have the resources and equipment necessary to fulfil their mandate in Mogadishu and beyond.

In order to consolidate the security and military gains achieved, we must provide greater technical and financial resources as well as training to the TFG forces so that they are able to ensure the security of the population. It is also crucial that there be a chain of command within the militias associated with the TFG and that they be truly subordinated to the TFG authorities.

We cannot fail to recall that the humanitarian situation remains very serious and that the fragility of the situation requires sustained, coordinated efforts on the part of the Organization and the international community. We must ensure that emergency assistance is increasingly linked to the establishment of conditions conducive to ensuring food security and long-term means of survival, so as to contribute to the development of sustainable structures following the crisis and to avert future emergencies.

In conclusion, I should like to acknowledge once again the significant contribution made by the African Union in the quest for peace in Somalia and to urge all of the relevant players to continue to participate constructively and comply with their obligations in the implementation of the road map so as to make it possible to comply with the timelines set in the context of the finalization of the transition period by August 2012.

Mr. Zhukov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Allow me to welcome you, Madam, as President of the Security Council at today's meeting.

We are grateful to Under-Secretary-General Pascoe and Mr. Lamamra, Commissioner for the Peace and Security of the African Union, for their briefings on the situation in Somalia. We listened carefully to the statements of Mr. Wetangula, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kenya, Mr. Kiyonga, Minister of Defence of Uganda, and Mr. Mammadyarov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan.

The year that is beginning should be critical in the history of Somalia, both in terms of moving the peace process forward and of nation-building. The implementation of the road map and dealing with Al-Shabaab should be coordinated and dynamic. That requires the robust political will of Somalis and the due support of the international community. Next, we need to strengthen those positive trends. In that context, we welcome the holding of the national consultative conference on the future constitution.

Against that backdrop, unfortunately, there have been tensions over the attempt to oust the speaker of the Parliament. That kind of incident could impede the unifying of political forces at the current critically important stage. The criteria for consolidating the Transitional Federal Institutions would be the timely completion of the transitional period and laying the basis for the further development of the country. Success in tackling Al-Shabaab is a necessary precondition for advancing the political process. Despite the clear military progress in southern and central Somalia, the recent clashes in Mogadishu show that Al-Shabaab's military capacity still exists. Efforts need to be stepped up in that area.

We welcome the agreement by the African Union on steps to extend the mandate, to strengthen the military capacity and to work out the concept of future operations of the African Union Mission in Somalia. We welcome the readiness of Djibouti and Kenya to provide troops to the African Union Mission, which continue to be a key factor in solving the Somali crisis.

Such steps are in line with the work of the international community and the African Union towards normalizing the situation in Somalia, including tackling extremism and piracy. Russia will continue to support the African Union in its efforts to normalize the situation in Somalia. Our position is that military measures can be used only to complement the political process. That therefore continues to be a challenge, primarily for Somalis themselves.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Burundi.

Mr. Niyonzima (Burundi): The Burundi Government will never tire of expressing its gratitude to the Security Council and the international community for the multiform support that they gave to our people during critical moments of the fratricidal war. Indeed, without their invaluable assistance, we simply would not have been able to put our country back on the rails of peace and security.

The Burundi people therefore understand better than many the meaning of peace and security. For the Government of Burundi, there is no other way to show our thankfulness than by sending our troops wherever there is a threat to peace and security on this planet. The Burundi Government also wants to thank the African Union Commission for the wise and constructive guidance to our countries.

While we watched the whole world standing up to fight piracy in the international waters along the coastal part of the Horn of Africa, the Somali unrest has somehow been perceived, for quite some time, as a Burundian and a Ugandan issue. However, the recent visit of the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General to Somalia was a political message, sent not only to the region but also to the whole world, that peace in Somalia is a concern of the international community. We therefore commend the initiative of other regional countries to get on board and join our forces in combating the rule of a dangerous fundamentalism.

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is not a peacekeeping mission. A peacekeeping mission is normally deployed upon agreement between belligerents. Instead, AMISOM is a target. It is considered by some Somalis as an occupation force. Today, as in the past, a military commitment in Mogadishu has never been a recreational tour. It is therefore not a secret if I say that Burundi has paid dearly in terms of human sacrifice.

That situation triggered some internal fears and, as part of a democracy, some political activists tried to politically exploit the sad Burundian ongoing experience in Somalia. But let me say it again — for the Burundi Government, nothing will be strong enough to divert or dilute our dedication to peace and stability, not only in Somalia but also wherever our contribution is needed.

The challenging situation in Somalia requires more in terms of troops, logistics and, most important, dedication. The Burundi Government supports the expansion of AMISOM, and remains flexible as to the decisions of the African Union and the Security Council.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all for paying tribute to Burundi for its effort and commitment in Somalia.

The President: There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6702

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6702nd meeting

Thursday, 12 January 2012, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Zuma	(South Africa)
Members:	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mammadyarov
	China	Mr. Liu Guijin
	Colombia	Ms. Holguín Cuéllar
	France	Mr. Courtial
	Germany	Ms. Pieper
	Guatemala	Mr. Rodas Melgar
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Haroon
	Portugal	Mr. Brites Pereira
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Togo	Mr. Esaw
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

Strengthening the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in the maintenance of international peace and security

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations-African Union cooperation in peace and security (S/2011/805)

Letter dated 4 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2012/13)

Letter dated 9 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2012/20)

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12-20534 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

Strengthening the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in the maintenance of international peace and security

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations-African Union cooperation in peace and security (S/2011/805)

Letter dated 4 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2012/13)

Letter dated 9 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2012/20)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Ethiopia, Kenya and Nigeria to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union (AU), to participate in this meeting.

I wish to welcome the Secretary-General, Ministers and other representatives participating in today's meeting. Their presence is an affirmation of the importance of the subject matter to be addressed.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2012/25, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Colombia, India, Pakistan, South Africa and Togo.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/805, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations-African Union cooperation in peace and security. I also wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2012/20, which contains a letter dated 9 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, and to document S/2012/13, which contains a letter dated 4 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept paper on the item to be considered.

I shall now make a statement in my national capacity.

Let me take this opportunity to thank everyone here for participating in this important debate on the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, and in particular the African Union. Their presence here bears testimony to the significance they attach to this matter, and indeed to the African continent.

Allow me also to express my appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report on the topic of this debate. I would also like to thank him for his personal commitment to the strengthening of the relationship between the United Nations and the African Union.

When the founders of the United Nations drafted the Charter, they had the foresight and vision to enshrine in it provisions that encourage cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security. More than six decades ago, when the Charter was drafted, there was no practical example of how this cooperation would be structured and executed. However, Chapter VIII of the Charter was groundbreaking in that, in spite of the fact that there were no regional organizations at the time, it provided for flexibility in cases where such regional organizations would be established.

As members are aware, most African countries were still under colonial rule when the United Nations was formed in 1945. Our concerns, issues and voices were not considered. The absence of African countries at the time of the formation of the United Nations is reflected in the fact that not a single African country is a permanent member of the Security Council. This is despite the fact that, on average, about 70 per cent of the agenda items of the Security Council concern Africa. It is a huge continent that has 54 member States, representing more than 1 billion people.

The failure of representation, on a permanent basis, of such a big part of the globe in such an important body as the Security Council points to the necessity and urgency of the fundamental reform of the Council so that it can become more representative and legitimate. This body believes in and preaches the culture of democracy and the will of the majority, which is the key element in a democratic system. At the same time, however, it cannot, in some of its key and decisive structures, practise something that contradicts the purposes and the principles of its founding Charter.

The African Union, the successor to the Organization of African Unity, was established a decade ago to coordinate and spearhead the continent's efforts towards development and common security. Through its peace and security organs, the African Union has contributed immensely to the improvement of peace and security and to the promotion of democracy and respect for human rights in Africa. The AU has also sought to give practical meaning to the vision of the United Nations Charter on cooperation with regional organizations.

We are mindful of the fact that the United Nations Charter gives the Security Council the primary mandate and responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, including on the African continent. At the same time, we are of the view that recognition should be accorded to the fact that the Charter encourages cooperation with regional bodies, such as the AU, in carrying out the United Nations mandate in line with the spirit of subsidiarity. It is our view that close cooperation with regional bodies has advantages.

Regional bodies are closer to the situation, are familiar with the issues and often understand the dynamics of a given conflict. Neighbouring countries also often bear the burden and consequences of conflict in their neighbourhoods. It is for this very reason that we support the principle of complementarity between the AU and the United Nations and their respective Security Councils.

We are pleased with the cooperation that has existed between the African Union and the United Nations since the AU's formation 10 years ago. The adoption of resolution 1809 (2008) in particular was a significant development in strengthening our cooperation. That positive experience has laid a firm foundation for further enhancing and strengthening the strategic relationship between the AU and the United Nations.

Critical to building a stronger relationship will be to avoid a situation such as that which transpired during the conflict in Libya last year. As everybody is aware, the AU developed a political road map that would have assisted in resolving the political conflict in that country. The AU's plan was completely ignored in favour of the bombing of Libya by NATO forces. The consequences of the actions that were carried out in Libya in the name of the Security Council have spilled over into other countries of the region. A problem that was confined to one country, Libya, has now grown into a regional problem. It is the view of the AU that resolution 1973 (2011) was largely abused in some specific respects.

The lesson we should draw from the Libyan experience is that greater political coherence and a common vision between the AU and the United Nations are critical to the resolution of African conflicts. The views of the African Union must be listened to if we are to strengthen our relationship and prevent further conflict. We now need the United Nations, the AU and the League of Arab States to work together to help the Libyan people to resolve the situation in which they find themselves.

It is also important that those who implement the decisions of the Security Council interpret those decisions correctly. They should also be held accountable for the actions they take in implementing the Security Council's binding mandates. Unless we take that serious view, the Security Council will be undermined and lose credibility and respect in the eyes of the world.

Africa can prosper and stability can be maintained if we also avoid what happened during the Cold War. We must never forget to take lessons from history. As Council members are aware, a lot of destabilization and conflict in the continent was condoned and sometimes actively supported by the protagonists of the Cold War because the conflict furthered their interests. That should never be allowed to happen again. Africa must never again be a playground for furthering the interests of other regions. It is important to underline that point so that conflicts in Africa become manageable. They will be

manageable if they are not promoted or aided from outside the continent.

We have gained insight and understanding from the experience of cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations over the past decade in addressing matters of peace and security. Based on that experience, we wish to make the following proposals for strengthening the strategic cooperation between the two bodies.

First, we are of the strong view that there is a need for greater strategic political coherence between the two organizations in the resolution, prevention and management of conflicts in Africa. In that respect, the relationship between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council is of critical significance. Mechanisms must be found to avoid duplications and divergent points of departure in terms of the approach. We therefore believe that we should institutionalize the relationship between the two Councils if our common objective of maintaining international peace and security is to be maintained. In that regard, aligning our collective policies, strategies and mechanisms for conflict prevention, mediation and resolution in Africa is paramount.

Secondly, we should consider the possibility of developing and defining modalities for cooperation and decision-making between the two institutions. That will assist in ensuring uniformity, consistency and certainty when the two institutions are pursuing a common objective. We believe that this proposal will particularly assist in addressing the challenge of how the Security Council reacts to the requests, suggestions and proposals of the African Union Peace and Security Council.

Thirdly, we are convinced that a clear division of labour will be crucial to the success of the strategic partnership between the two organizations. That has to take into account the different competencies, capacities and comparative advantages of the two bodies.

Finally, the issue of capacity-building and sustainable resource allocation remains a fundamental challenge. That is something that the African Union needs to discuss with the United Nations in order to explore solutions.

The African continent has in the past decade demonstrated sufficient political will and commitment to rid the continent of all conflicts and wars. We are working hard to move the continent forward on a sustainable path of socio-economic development and prosperity. We know that we have the support of the United Nations on that path. We would like once again to reiterate that, for the African continent, the strengthening of the strategic relationship between the African Union and United Nations is critical if we are to rid our continent of the scourge of conflicts that has scarred Africa for decades.

Last weekend, the African National Congress, the oldest liberation movement on the African continent, celebrated 100 years of existence. We wish once again to thank the United Nations and its members for the support that they provided to the people of South Africa during the struggle for liberation. The United Nations declared apartheid a crime against humanity and, in so doing, put enormous pressure on the apartheid regime and on its supporters. In this centenary year, we extend our deepest gratitude to the United Nations for supporting freedom, peace, human rights and justice in our country. We also thank the Secretary-General for the recent high-level symposium on South Africa's contribution to the fight against racism and xenophobia, held here at United Nations Headquarters last September.

We pledge to continue our dedication and commitment to human rights, peace, democracy and justice so that the support of countless men and women here at United Nations Headquarters can prove not to have been in vain. In that respect, partnership with the international community and with the United Nations in particular is critical. I wish the Council well in this debate.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: I would like to begin by commending you, Sir, for having organized this very important meeting at the beginning of the new year, 2012.

At the outset, I would like to welcome most warmly the delegations of Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Morocco, Pakistan and Togo, which have joined the Security Council as the newest non-permanent members. I look forward to their active participation and to their committed involvement in the various

agenda items before the Council. Their contributions will be greatly valued by the Council, as well as by the Secretariat. I wish them a very productive engagement in this Chamber.

I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to the delegations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Gabon, Lebanon and Nigeria for their committed involvement and hard work during the past two years. They have done much to bring credit to the Council, and their contributions will be long remembered.

The African Union (AU) is a vital strategic partner to the United Nations, and South Africa is utilizing its presidency to deepen that relationship. I welcome its continued engagement.

I also recognize Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, and welcome the recent and first-ever AU report on United Nations-AU cooperation. I thank the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Jean Ping, for his initiative and leadership. As Secretary-General, my remit is global, but I attach great importance to the role of regional and subregional organizations, as recognized in Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

Here at the United Nations, activities to enhance stability in Africa take up a significant part of the agenda of the Security Council and they are among my leading priorities. Over the past decade, the AU and subregional organizations have significantly bolstered their own role in building an architecture for peace and security on the African continent. Together, our collective efforts in conflict prevention and mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding are making a real difference throughout the continent.

Of course, there is more room for improvement. We often face complex and fast-moving crises, and we are establishing mechanisms to build common understanding and approaches. The annual meetings between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council are one important example. There will be differences. That is natural. Organizations with different mandates, membership and perspectives will occasionally have differences in approach. The question is how we manage those differences — how we work together. My report (S/2011/805) and this discussion are about building on our successes, improving coherence and harmonizing decision-making from a firm foundation of shared values and principles.

Over the past few years, we have strengthened our partnership with the African Union at the Secretariat level in several concrete ways. First, the United Nations-African Union Joint Task Force on Peace and Security has proven to be an effective mechanism for consultations on an array of issues, including Côte d'Ivoire, Libya, Somalia and the Sudan. Secondly, we have revamped our Office in Addis Ababa to further strengthen our cooperation, including by improving early-warning information that will help foster timely action and joint threat analysis. Through military and police planners based in Addis Ababa, we have supported the AU's planning for its expansion of the operations of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). We also continue to work closely on other key areas, such as elections, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction. Thirdly, our regional offices, peacekeeping operations and special political missions are cooperating closely with the AU and subregional organizations.

Examples abound, including the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and joint mediation efforts there, United Nations logistics and planning support to AMISOM, joint efforts to combat the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), cooperation between Special Envoy Menkerios and the African Union High-level Implementation Panel led by President Mbeki, and much more. The United Nations Office for West Africa, working closely with the AU and the Economic Community of West African States, has also been active in defusing tensions throughout the subregion. The newly established United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, in cooperation with the Economic Community of Central African States, can play a similar role.

Fourthly and finally, joint assessment missions have also been essential in ensuring a common understanding of emerging issues. For example, we recently deployed such a mission to the Sahel to assess how developments in Libya are affecting the region. We also have just dispatched a joint mission to the four countries affected by the LRA. And under the leadership of the AU, we have worked together to develop a strategic concept for future AMISOM operations, which is now under consideration by the Security Council.

I am greatly encouraged by the concrete progress we have made in recent years. Let us pledge to do even more to enhance our partnership. We can do so by learning new lessons, developing new tools and intensifying our engagement with civil society and women's groups active in mediation and conflict prevention, particularly at the local level.

As we look ahead, we will need to ensure flexibility, so that each new situation is addressed on its own merits. We must also promote innovative arrangements in complex situations that may require joint actions, joint operations or enhanced partnerships. As we do so, let us strive to maximize our collective efforts and limited resources, and ensure that each partnership arrangement has a clearly defined division of labour and roles and responsibilities for each organization. Regional organizations have comparative advantages. So does the United Nations, not least the weight of international law and the primary responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Finally, let me say that I am eager to attend the African Union summit later this month. It will be my sixth African Union summit in a row. I look forward to my meetings with African leaders and to continuing to explore how we can make our strong partnership even stronger in the years ahead.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to Mr. Lamamra.

Mr. Lamamra: I would like to first acknowledge the presence of President Jacob Zuma of the Republic of South Africa. His decision to be here with us to preside over this meeting is a further illustration of his leadership and the commitment of South Africa to the promotion of a strong strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) in peace and security matters. Over the years, South Africa has used its successive memberships in the Security Council to push forward that agenda, within the framework of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. The African Union Commission is deeply appreciative of that effort and the results achieved so far.

Let me also recognize the presence of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Since his appointment at the helm of the Secretariat, he has spared no effort in promoting the AU-United Nations partnership in the area of peace and security, building on earlier initiatives aimed at ensuring that regional arrangements fully play their role in the post-cold war security architecture. In his report of October 2010 on United Nations support to AU peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council, the Secretary-General rightly observed that "[t]he complex challenges in the world today require a revitalized and evolving interpretation of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations" *(S/2010/514, para. 54)*. The African Union fully shares that view.

It would be remiss of me not to pay tribute to the Security Council and to its members. In the past three years, the Council has held no less than four meetings devoted to the African Union-United Nations partnership. This is a clear indication of its commitment and of its realization that, indeed, the daunting peace and security challenges that continue to face Africa require an innovative and creative partnership between the AU and the United Nations.

Today's debate comes at a time of renewed recognition of the importance of building a strong partnership between the AU and the United Nations in order to enhance our efforts to promote peace, security and stability on the African continent. The turbulence that the partnership went through last year only adds to the urgency of more clearly defining this relationship.

In carrying forward this debate, we have the privilege of learning from our most recent experiences. We also have the privilege of having before us the reports submitted by both the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the African Union Commission Chairperson. These are two complementary inputs which provide not only an assessment of where we stand as far as the partnership is concerned, but also useful recommendations on the way forward. I note that at their fifth consultative meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 21 May 2011, both the AU Peace and Security Council and the Security Council stressed that they were looking forward to these reports.

The strategic relationship between the AU and the United Nations has been growing steadily. Cooperation between the Commission and the Secretariat has recorded commendable achievements, as demonstrated by the regular consultations between AU and United Nations senior officials on issues of common concern and the mechanisms put in place to that end.

Innovative modalities such as the hybrid operation in Darfur and the United Nations support package to AMISOM have been devised and implemented to meet the requirements of the fast-evolving realities on the ground.

The AU Peace and Security Council and the Security Council have also endeavoured to deepen their partnership. Their efforts are all the more praiseworthy as they have to overcome numerous challenges, not least the novelty of the exercise and the differences in their respective mandates and scope of action.

Yet we are just at the beginning of our journey towards a more strategic relationship between the AU and the United Nations in the area of peace and security. Such an approach is made more compelling by the fact that Africa, in spite of the significant progress made over the past few years, still accounts for the highest number of conflicts worldwide.

In addition to the traditional threats to peace, security and stability, the African continent is now facing a new set of threats: first, governance-related intra-State conflicts and violence, including election-related ones, which could severely undermine the nascent democracies on the continent and negatively affect the social fabric in many countries; secondly, terrorism and transnational crime, which is compounded by the proliferation of weapons; thirdly, maritime piracy off both the east and west coasts of Africa, as well as other challenges to continental maritime security; fourthly, border disputes, especially in view of the limited progress made in the delimitation and demarcation of the African borders, a situation which gives rise to "undefined zones", within which the application of national sovereignty poses problems; and fifthly, climate change, whose consequences, whether they relate to scarce water resources, damage to coastal infrastructure and cities, reduced agricultural yields or environmentally induced migration, will have a negative impact on the quest for peace.

Clearly, those challenges require concerted responses by the African Union and the United Nations and a much closer partnership, based on a creative reading of the provisions of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter to allow the African Union and its regional mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution to fully play their role as integral components of collective security.

The African Union and its regional mechanisms are particularly well placed to make a significant contribution to collective security, in view of their proximity to and familiarity with the issues at hand. In addition, they have developed comprehensive architectures covering the whole range of security challenges facing the continent, including those related to governance.

It is critical to provide more effective support to the African continent and its institutions, especially as Africa has demonstrated renewed determination to deal with peace and security issues on the continent and provide the leadership that is required. Nowhere has this proactive stance been more evident than in the area of peacekeeping, where the African Union has shown a strong willingness to take risks to seize the opportunities that present themselves in order to advance the agenda of peace, but is constrained by the lack of the necessary resources, particularly in terms of flexible, sustainable and predictable funding.

That is the background that informed the report of the Chairperson of the Commission and the subsequent decision of the Peace and Security Council regarding the need for the AU and the United Nations to develop a stronger partnership, based on an innovative strategic and forward-looking reading of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

More specifically, the African Union and the United Nations should agree on a set of principles aimed at clarifying their relationship and anchoring it on a more solid platform. From the AU perspective, such principles should revolve around the following: support for African ownership and priority-setting; consultative decision-making, division of labour and sharing of responsibilities; and comparative advantage. The African Union is committed to engaging in earnest on a dialogue with the United Nations on the principles that should underpin the relationship.

In parallel, and on the basis of the communiqués of the consultative meetings held between the Peace and Security Council and the Security Council, practical steps should be taken to enhance the effectiveness of the annual meetings between the two organs, develop regular interaction between their respective chairs and undertake joint field missions. Equally important is the need for the Security Council to give due consideration to our legitimate requests and to address, in a more systematic manner, the funding of

AU-led peace support operations undertaken with the consent of the Security Council. On their part, the AU Commission and the Secretariat should continue to work towards greater collaboration and coordination.

We have come a long way in our efforts to build a stronger partnership, but much remains to be done. As we forge ahead, we need to draw appropriate lessons from our past experiences, both our shortcomings and our successes. We ought to be pragmatic and results-oriented, driven, as we should be, by the imperative to respond to the needs on the ground, to assist countries and shattered communities to turn the page of violence and conflict, to consolidate peace where it has been achieved and, ultimately, to help Africa to fully exploit its potential for the good of its people and humankind overall.

In the past years, the African Union and its regional mechanisms have demonstrated a strong commitment to act, building on their comprehensive and solid normative and institutional framework. The responsibility of the United Nations, as we understand it, is to fully support those efforts, which are consistent with the principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter, politically and by making available its resources and expertise, as and when required.

The President: I thank His Excellency Mr. Lamamra for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Moses Wetangula, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kenya and Chair of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

Mr. Wetangula (Kenya): It is a great pleasure for me to participate in this Security Council meeting on the United Nations-African Union (AU) relationship in matters of peace and security. In that context, I wish to commend President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, President of the Council for the month of January, for making the partnership between the United Nations and the AU the centrepiece of its presidency and for having convened this meeting and deeming it fit to invite the AU, in particular Kenya as Chair of the AU Peace and Security Council, to join in this debate. I convey to the members of the Council the very best wishes of my President, Mr. Mwai Kibaki, who, owing to prior commitments, could not join them at this meeting. He asked me to express his full commitment to the ongoing efforts to strengthen the strategic partnership between the AU and the United Nations, in general, and in peace and security matters, in particular.

Last Monday, 9 January, I chaired the 307th meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council, in Addis Ababa, on the AU-United Nations strategic partnership in the maintenance of international peace and security. Framed by the report of the AU Chairperson, that discussion elaborated the form and content of the desired partnership from an African perspective. It is our hope that the recommendations of the communiqué of that meeting will inform our discussions today.

The quest for peace and security is a pressing challenge in Africa today. Over the past two decades, the continent has witnessed a number of crises and violent conflicts, with huge negative consequences for the African people, as well as our aspiration to a peaceful and prosperous continent. We are therefore faced with the tasks of resolving protracted conflicts, such as those in Darfur and Somalia, and of facilitating reconstruction and development in countries that have emerged from conflicts, such as Burundi, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire and, more recently, Libya, Tunisia and Egypt — societies that have undergone radical transformation.

The need to prevent conflicts and de-escalate fragile situations calls for proactive engagement. Additionally, growing threats of transnational crime, including terrorism and piracy, especially off the coast of Somalia and Western Africa, as well as the trafficking of persons and contraband, increasingly pose serious challenges to the consolidation of peace and security.

In view of those conditions, for a considerable time Africa has dominated the agenda of the Security Council because such threats impact international peace and security and their causes and dynamics extend beyond the affected countries, regions and the continent itself. In that regard, the need to maintain a strong and well-structured strategic partnership between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council cannot be overemphasized.

While the Security Council has the primary mandate for the maintenance of international peace and security, the resolution of today's complex threats calls for collective action. That reality underscores the wisdom that underpins the provisions of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, which provides for

regional mechanisms to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts. From that reality, modalities of engagement have evolved. That that relationship is gaining momentum is commendable, and that both sides demonstrate a willingness to improve the relationship needs to be encouraged further.

Yesterday's Security Council meeting on Somalia (see S/PV.6701) was instructive on the necessity to enhance the relationship. Indeed, as most speakers emphasized, the opportunity to turn Somalia around depends almost entirely on the extent to which we can elevate and improve the strategic and operational relationship between the AU and the United Nations, in general, and the AU Peace and Security Council and the Security Council, in particular.

We commend the focused attention of the United Nations on its partnership with Africa. The statements by the President of the Security Council in 2009 and 2010 (S/PRST/2009/26 and S/PRST/2010/21), as well as the reports of the Secretary-General to the Council on both occasions (S/2009/470 and S/2010/514), reaffirm the importance of developing effective partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in the maintenance of international peace and security, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter.

However, that relationship has not been without challenges, especially in the past year. For that reason, today we have the opportunity to reflect on innovative ways of interpreting Chapter VIII that add value, improve the relationship and optimize the chances of achieving sustainable peace. In that context, I wish to highlight several issues that require measures of improvement.

First, the process of decision-making, particularly in determining when and how to engage in specific crisis situations, has been a matter of divergence at times, with serious consequences. The practice in the past two years seems to indicate an undesirable trend that appears to be selective on the part of the Security Council and that seems to disregard full consideration of the position and/or recommendations of the AU or its organs. We all recall the manner in which the African position was either ignored or partially considered in the cases of Libya and Côte d'Ivoire last year. President Zuma has articulated that point much more than I myself can. I fully agree with him, and have nothing useful to add.

We have proposed a number of measures, including regular consultations beyond the annual meetings of the Councils, even before decisions are taken. It would also be valuable to give meaning to the principles envisaged in Chapter VIII, namely, complementarity, subsidiarity and comparative advantage. The caution here is to avoid a framework that compromises the value of the African Union and other regional organizations as first responders to a crisis.

A second significant area is the gap between the requirements of an operation and the resources available, about which many delegations spoke eloquently yesterday in relation to the African Union Mission in Somalia. To the extent that Africa's peace support operations are contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security, the recommendations of the Prodi report (see S/2008/813) echoed yesterday to guarantee predictable, flexible and sustainable funding/resourcing for such operations is imperative. That is so because poorly resourced operations are unlikely to deliver sustainable peace.

We welcome calls by some speakers for an increase in voluntary contributions without caveats. However, those are unlikely to be sufficient given the tasks on the ground. For that reason, a reflection on the modalities of bringing the value of the United Nations for sustained operations, particularly through assessed contributions, to AU-led missions is an unavoidable necessity.

Thirdly, institutionally, we have witnessed progress between the United Nations and the AU at the various levels: between the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council, the departments of peace and security, political affairs et cetera, as well as between the United Nations and regional organizations. Those relationships need further clarification, particularly with regard to the roles and responsibilities of all actors involved. Clarity will minimize duplication and enhance coherence, synergy of action and comfort levels, and bring focus to the efforts of both the AU and the United Nations.

Fourthly, operationally, Africa is demonstrating renewed determination and willingness to deploy peace support operations in fragile, even insecure, environments. That calls for a shift in the United Nations doctrine on peace operations. The practice that

the United Nations can only engage where there is peace to keep translates into the United Nations abandonment of some of the most challenging crisis situations. That leads to the trend observed in the Prodi report where the most challenging crisis situations are left in the hands of the least resourced and able organizations. Such a situation engenders less, not more, security in the world.

Fifthly, at the AU we recognize that the improvement of the AU-United Nations strategic relationship also depends on building the capacity of our institutions. We are now exploring ways of increasing the pool of resources available for AU activities, and are calling upon all our partners to assist us in that regard. We are also in the process of strengthening the interface between the various AU offices, in particular between Addis Ababa and New York, to ensure common messaging of African perspectives and positions, especially where decisions have been made by the AU.

This meeting follows an unprecedented window of opportunity to finally restore security, peace and stability in Somalia. The Council will recall that in October 2010 the AU Peace and Security Council held a meeting, ahead of the renewal of the AMISOM mandate, in which we asked the Security Council to consider a number of recommendations that we viewed as critical for the operation in Somalia. The Security Council responded to them in a limited manner. This time around, we have approached the Security Council after significant progress on the ground and with a strategic concept developed by a joint assessment team comprised of the AU, the United Nations and troop-contributing countries. That underscores the growing cooperation and partnership. Our expectation is that the joint efforts will translate into better international and Security Council support, as well as an effective operation. Equally, we hope that the decision on Somalia will be expeditious, and in no way be predicated upon the outcomes of any future meetings and engagements on Somalia. We must note that time is of the absolute essence. The Security Council must therefore act swiftly in order to protect and expand the current gains.

In the area of mediation, it is crucial that that we draw upon lessons from successful mediation processes — for example, in the case of the Sudan, where we have attained a good mix of United Nations material, logistical and political support, together with political legitimacy and access of the AU and its subregional organization, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. That is a vital lesson on complementarity, comparative advantage and strategic convergence.

In the light of those observations, the AU looks towards a more innovative interpretation of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter and to the development of consensus on a set of principles that will underpin greater synergy between the AU and the United Nations. Key among those principles are support for African ownership and priority setting; flexible and innovative application of the principle of complimentarily; and mutual respect and adherence to the principle of comparative advantage.

In conclusion, I wish to re-emphasize the significance of this agenda and to underscore the hope of Africa that today's deliberations will lead to greater coherence between the United Nations Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council in the areas of conflict prevention, management and resolution on the continent. More important, I hope and believe that the cooperation will be governed by the basic and cardinal rules of mutual trust and respect.

Once again, I wish to express the gratitude of Kenya for the invitation to attend and participate in this historic meeting of the Security Council.

The President: I thank Minister Wetangula for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Ms. Holguin Cuéllar (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the Government of Colombia, I would like to congratulate South Africa on its presidency during this month, as well as to thank you, Mr. President, for the timely initiative of convening this debate of great pertinence and relevance for the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. It is an honour to participate in this meeting presided over by His Excellency President Jacob Zuma. It is also a pleasure to see high level representatives from the different regions gathered here today. During its presidency, South Africa will celebrate 100 years of the establishment of the African National Congress. We joint them in commemorating that event.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2011/805) detailing the progress and remaining challenges in the area of cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union on issues of peace and security, as well as for his participation in today's debate.

I also wish to thank Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, for his briefing.

The report of the Secretary-General leaves us wondering how to complement peacekeeping operations, as they, in and of themselves, do not produce the changes that countries need in the long-term to consolidate their stability and development. In that context, in the debates of recent months, Colombia has emphasized recourse to peaceful conflict resolution mechanisms. Today, we would like once again to underscore the great contributions of the provisions of Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, which allows the United Nations and the Council to support the search for lasting solutions based on negotiation, mediation and agreement.

For those practices to be effective, the role, vision and leadership of regional organizations are crucial. Without them, no action carried out focusing on the interest of global balance will have the local effects that improve the situation on the ground to provide relief for populations affected by conflict. Concrete actions have already been taken with regard to such coordination, such as the common guidelines that support a mediation framework in Africa based on the cases of Kenya, Darfur, Somalia and Guinea-Bissau. We hope those actions will be expanded and that additional mechanisms will be found.

United Nations operations in Africa make up a large portion of the Organization's agenda. Without a doubt, the coordination with the African Union in recent years has been essential to the success that has been achieved. The 25 operations authorized by the Security Council in Africa since 1990 highlight the importance of the work carried out by this body with the African Union and other subregional organizations on that continent.

The presence of some of those peacekeeping operations on the ground for extended periods serves to draw attention to the issue of exit goals in evaluating joint work, as the criteria of strengthening national capacity and the creation of conditions for countries to be able to take on their full independence and sovereignty and generate development and welfare for their people must have a central role.

The experience of the African Union highlights the need for an integrated approach to address conflicts. That regional organization is in a privileged position to contribute and define elements and establish strategies on how to strengthen conflict resolution in its region. The fact that the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union meet annually is an indication of the greater awareness that exists with regard to the need to coordinate policies and actions in the search for solutions.

Chapter VIII of the Charter envisions the contribution of regional organizations as an integral part of collective security and values their vision, actions and initiatives to find solutions within their range of competence. The fact that the application of Chapter VII makes way more frequently for Chapter VI can hinge on the support of the Security Council for those efforts, thus strengthening peaceful agreement and diplomatic channels in conflict resolution.

We cannot lose sight of the fact that the greatest aspiration in the face of conflicts is to achieve peace. In this regard, the preservation of cooperation efforts must include their continuous adjustment to ensure that they do not to become permanent, self-serving structures, or whose purpose becomes solving temporary problems.

Mr. Mammadyarov (Azerbaijan): At the outset, I would like to thank and congratulate the South African presidency on convening this debate on the United Nations-African Union partnership. We welcome the presence at this very important meeting of His Excellency Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa. We are grateful for the report (S/2011/805) of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon. I would also like to welcome the delegation of the African Union Commission and the chairs of the African subregional organizations.

Over the past decade, the role of the African Union and subregional organizations has increased significantly. Indeed, not all regional organizations can boast of their ability and political will to understand the root causes of armed conflicts and to contribute effectively to their resolution. As a country suffering from the occupation of almost 20 per cent of its territory and the forcible displacement of hundreds of

thousands of its citizens, Azerbaijan fully understands the threats and challenges affecting countries with unresolved conflicts, including those in Africa, as indicated just a few minutes ago by Mr. Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union.

The African Union has made great efforts to promote peace, security and stability on the continent, and has demonstrated its ability to take the lead. The launch of the African Peace and Security Architecture and the establishment of its constitutive elements, as well as the African Union's peace support operations authorized by the Security Council, should be particularly noted.

The challenges that Africa faces today and that constitute a considerable part of the Security Council's deliberations can be better addressed through collective political and diplomatic efforts. The high interest in today's debate demonstrates the vivid commitment of the international community to supporting African countries in bringing stability and ensuring sustainable development on the continent.

In recent years, we have seen progress achieved in developing the strategic relationship between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peace and security. At the same time, we have to admit that challenges remain and that more should be done to further strengthen this relationship to effectively address common collective security concerns in Africa.

It is critical that we further strengthen our joint efforts to prevent conflicts before they occur. Greater focus on the area of conflict prevention and mediation has acquired additional significance. The development of common guidelines by the United Nations and the African Union as a framework for mediation in Africa would contribute to achieving this objective. It is crucial that all Member States strictly adhere to their obligations, as laid down in the United Nations Charter, with respect to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States. An important determination in this regard has also been made by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/283 of 22 June 2011 on strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution.

We recognize the vital role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction. The United Nations and the African Union need to work to ensure that women and gender perspectives are fully integrated into all peace and security efforts undertaken by the two organizations, including by building the necessary capacity.

It is important that the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as the secretariats of both organizations, further enhance their relationship, including through annual meetings and more intense informal communications between them. As the Secretary-General points out in his report, efforts to find a solution to ensure sustainable financing for African Union peace support operations need to be continued. While the steps taken by the African Union in developing its own financing mechanisms are commendable, other means and options provided by the United Nations and the international community should also be available in this regard, including in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict, as well as in peacebuilding.

In recent times, Azerbaijan has significantly developed its cooperation with the African Union and its member States. Obtaining the status of observer with the African Union has allowed my country to advance mutually beneficial relations and dialogue. Azerbaijan is actively participating in implementing various assistance programmes for Africa. We responded to the appeals of the respective Governments and international organizations to provide urgent aid aimed at addressing the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa and elsewhere on the continent. Furthermore, we have contributed to supporting the institution and capacity-building programme of the African Union Commission and offered scholarships for diplomats from African countries to study in the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy.

Azerbaijan has also joined the work of one of the Peacebuilding Commission's country-specific configurations, and looks forward to pursuing its efforts in this regard. We have started consultations with the relevant stakeholders to apply in Africa our rich experience in the field of demining, provided by the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action. We look forward to advancing our cooperation with the AU Commission and African countries and are planning to host in Azerbaijan, in cooperation with the United Nations and the African Union, a high-level

international conference on the issues of concern to Africa.

In conclusion, I would like to express our full support of South Africa's draft resolution (S/2012/25), aimed at developing effective partnership relations and cooperation between the two organizations. Last but not least, I would also like to take this opportunity to stress the importance for the Council to monitor the implementation of its existing resolutions, in particular those related to the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts.

Mr. Rodas Melgar (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank your Government, Sir, for having organized this timely debate, as well as for the concept paper circulated among us (S/2012/13, annex). We highly appreciate your personal presence at this gathering, which undoubtedly adds to its relevance. We also value the presence of the senior officials of the five subregional institutions who have joined us, and we thank the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union for his briefing on United Nations-African Union cooperation in peace and security. We also sincerely appreciate the Secretary-General's complete and illuminating report on the same topic (S/2011/805).

This is a very special occasion for me — I would even say an emotional one — since this is our first participation in a debate of the Security Council since we took our place as an elected member last week, and because it takes place two days before the present Administration of my country relinquishes power to the new Government elected by popular vote in November. In other words, this week is of special relevance for our history of democratic consolidation at the national level, and also for our presence, for the first time, in this body of the United Nations. I therefore welcome the opportunity to be present on this occasion.

It might be argued that Guatemala has little to offer in a debate on the strategic partnership between the Security Council and the African Union, since we do not belong to the latter, but that is not the case. On the contrary, today's debate is very pertinent for us, since regional cooperation is one of the pillars of our foreign policy. For 60 years now, our subregion, Central America, has been a pioneer in promoting a broad and deep integration process, which partially explains the high value we place on regionalism in all its manifestations. The support we offered to the recent creation of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States is, of itself, one more example of that vocation.

The expression of that policy in the context of the United Nations is found in the area of peace and security under Chapter VIII of the Charter, which covers the compatibility between the work of the Security Council and regional organizations. Indeed, we have witnessed the growing link between the Council and regional entities in the resolutions adopted by this organ recently, in which the African Union certainly plays a prominent role, together with other regional economic communities, such as the Economic Community of West African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the League of Arab States.

The link between the Security Council and regional entities is not limited to the preventive actions and mediation contemplated in Article 52 of the Charter or to the coercive measures contemplated in Article 53; indeed, as the report of the Secretary-General reminds us, those entities increasingly participate in peacekeeping operations and, by extension, in peacebuilding activities. In both endeavours, we feel part of a community of interests with our colleagues of the African continent, in our double capacity as a troop-contributing country and as a country that experienced a post-conflict situation with very unique experiences of peacebuilding on the heels of the signing of our own peace accords in late 1996.

Judging from the concept paper circulated by the presidency (S/2012/13, annex) and the report of the Secretary-General, much has been achieved in partnering the Security Council with the African Union — the latter, through the African Peace and Security Architecture — since the Security Council adopted resolutions 1625 (2005) and 1809 (2008). At the same time, we take the point made in the concept paper that there remains much to be done, above all in the area of mediation and conflict prevention.

To the degree that concrete proposals emerge to strengthen the link between both institutions, my delegation will consider them with a positive inclination. We are also well aware — and the Secretary-General's report makes the point — that cooperation between the United Nations and the

African Union has at times faced divergent positions on particular issues. The same can be said for different points of view regarding complementarities and burden-sharing. However, we feel that the existing consensus-building mechanisms between the parties should help to resolve those issues.

In more general terms, we believe that the partnership between the Security Council and regional institutions in the area of peace and security contains the conceptual underpinnings of a productive relationship based on the clear comparative advantages derived from the Council's mandate to maintain international peace and security and the greater knowledge and identification that regional institutions tend to have regarding their own member countries.

That is why we applaud the growing tendency of the Council — tacit, in some cases, and explicit in others — to follow the guidance offered by the regional entities, in contrast to the possible temptation to try and dictate the path to follow from this Chamber without consultations. Perhaps the best examples of the results of this cooperation are the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the African Union Mission in Somalia.

We also note that progress in the area of cooperation has taken place both at the level of the Secretariats of the United Nations and the African Union and within the intergovernmental machinery. We find that the yearly meetings of the Security Council with the African Union Peace and Security Council are of particular interest. We also applaud the establishment in 2010 of the United Nations Office to the African Union, which will bring greater consistency to the relationship between the two entities.

Naturally, cooperation between the United Nations and regional institutions goes well beyond the mandates of the Security Council. As is well known, there are several agreements between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of development cooperation, all under the umbrella of the framework agreement signed in 2006 between them, which contain a 10-year capacity-building programme which is not limited to the peace and security cluster. We naturally support cooperation in the area of development, in the spirit of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. That, too, can be perceived as a conflict-prevention activity, under the broader aegis of the General Assembly.

In summary, Guatemala, in its multilateral vocation, has always been partial to combining the presence of the United Nations with that of regional and subregional institutions. That is valid for development cooperation, the maintenance of international peace and security, humanitarian assistance and the promotion of human rights. It is valid for our own continent — Latin America and the Caribbean — and there is no reason to doubt that it is equally so for Africa, where the African Union and a host of subregional institutions have a solid and proven track record of achievements. In the latter instance, South Africa has played a leading role that merits our recognition.

Ms. Rice (United States of America): I want to thank the Secretary-General for his presence and remarks. I also welcome the Ministers present here, as well as Commissioner Lamamra. At the outset, I want especially to thank President Zuma for convening this important and timely debate.

The relationship between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) is important to both bodies. As the AU approaches its tenth anniversary, the time is ripe for considering what we have learned, where we are going and what needs to be improved. Collective African efforts at advancing peace and security on the continent have indeed come a long way since the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was founded, in 1963. Since 2002 in particular, when the African Union succeeded the OAU, African Governments have shown that, acting together, they can prevent conflict. The AU marked a new beginning with its doctrine of non-indifference. The AU charter recognizes that it might be necessary to intervene in the affairs of a member State "in respect of grave circumstances, namely: war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity". Those are brave and worthy words.

The African Union's first major mission was in Burundi, with initial deployment in April 2003. The African Union then acted responsibly in Darfur, when other international actors were still hesitant. The AU Mission in the Sudan was operational in August 2004, before any other force. The AU was also active early on in pressing for peace between the Sudan and South Sudan. President Mbeki's efforts continue to be valuable, and South Africa deserves praise for its

leadership and dedication to peace in both the Sudan and Burundi. Above all, the African Union has taken on a very tough mission in Somalia, where it has deployed troops to advance peace since 2007. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia have come a long way in developing their relationship and in improving coordination. All of those missions were undertaken with the collaboration of the international community, notably the Security Council, and sometimes with that of subregional organizations such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Recognizing the importance of the international community's engagement with the AU, the United States Mission to the African Union was established in 2006; it has been significantly strengthened since 2009. That is consistent with the Obama Administration's overall policy of intensified engagement with regional organizations, including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Organization of American States. The United Nations has likewise strengthened its ties to regional organizations, notably after the General Assembly established the United Nations Office to the African Union, in 2010.

It is precisely because the relationship between the United Nations and the AU, and between the Security Council and the African Union's Peace and Security Council, is so important that we must confront the challenges facing that relationship forthrightly and honestly if we are to make progress. The United Nations needs a strong African Union, and the African Union needs a strong United Nations. Yet, African Union member States have sometimes indicated that they feel ignored or disregarded by the Council. At the same time, some Security Council members feel that African Union member States have not always provided unified or consistent views on key issues, and that the African Union has on occasion been slow to act on urgent matters.

Beneath those perceptions and frustrations, however, is a deeper issue, that is, who is on first? Under the Charter, the Security Council has a unique, universal and primary mandate to maintain international peace and security. The Security Council is not subordinate to other bodies, or to the schedules or capacities of regional or subregional groups. Nonetheless, the Security Council wants and needs to cooperate closely with regional organizations, as demonstrated by our growing collaboration with the African Union over nearly a decade. Such collaboration, however, needs to be based on the exigencies of the issue at hand, and that cooperation cannot be on the basis that the regional organization independently decides the policy and that United Nations Member States simply bless it and pay for it. There can be no blank check, either politically or financially. The Security Council should, and will, take into account the views of regional and subregional institutions, while recognizing that sometimes there is disagreement among them.

For example, the positions of organizations such as the Economic Community of Western African States or IGAD on an issue in their subregion might not be exactly the same as the consensus view of the 54 member States of the African Union. The United States urges the Security Council to seize this opportunity to define our relations with the African Union more precisely, so that we can move forward together in better meeting the urgent challenges that confront us all.

In that vein, let us be candid. The periodic African Union-Security Council consultations have not, thus far, been altogether productive or satisfactory. If they cannot be improved, they risk being jettisoned by one side or the other as not useful or worse. To make the United Nations-AU relationship more effective, we must do more than consider formalizing African Union-Security Council meetings. The meetings must prove their worth. The meetings must have set agendas and concrete priorities that lead to tangible improvements, not only in how we work together but in how our work helps people in Africa and around the world. Nonetheless, the opportunities for us to seize together are considerable.

The European Union has set an example in its work to strengthen the AU's Peace and Security Architecture. In peacekeeping, the African Standby Force is being improved and shows promise. Bilaterally, the United States continues to train and equip African militaries for deployment in multilateral peacekeeping operations. The United Nations-AU Joint Task Force on Peace and Security is a valuable forum that can greatly contribute to better United Nations-AU cooperation on peace and security. The United Nations could assist further by standardizing training of peacekeepers. It could go further still in offering

Department of Peacekeeping Operations guidance to the AU, including through peacekeeping programmes that give instruction on the rule of law, sexual- and gender-based violence and the protection of civilians in armed conflict. We would also welcome sustained collaboration on lessons learned and best practices. It is also time for a formal lessons learned exercise concerning United Nations-AU joint operations so far, including the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and AMISOM.

One lesson that the United States and others learned in Bosnia is that joint command and control operations, or so-called dual keys, do not typically work well. Hybrid missions are very challenging at best. We need to analyse our experience in the field, discuss it and agree on optimal mission structures that are linked to the objectives of the situation at hand. Recent United Nations-AU coordination in fighting the Lord's Resistance Army provides one positive example to consider. The United Nations, for its part, could be more effective in Addis Ababa. The creation of the United Nations Office to the African Union is a positive step, but the annual review of the United Nations agencies supporting the AU needs to improve. At present, no single United Nations office is in charge of United Nations efforts to assist the African Union. That leads to unnecessary duplication. United Nations officials on the ground need stronger backing to streamline their own structures, to better aid the African Union.

That is definitely, however, a two-way street. For its part, the African Union should improve its internal management in the areas of administration, accounting, financial management and human resources. Improvement in those areas would help to foster a more productive relationship on the ground in Addis Ababa and would energize progress on the United Nations-AU 10-year capacity-building programme. Key to that, as the African Union Chairperson suggested in his report, is for the African Union to identify priorities, and the United Nations should be responsive to that. Since the programme was established in 2006, far too little progress has been achieved through United Nations delivering as one in its engagement with the African Union and regional economic communities. The African Union and the United Nations have already agreed on a range of actions to strengthen their operational relationship. More must be done to galvanize improvements at the programmatic and administrative levels.

South Africa has rightly emphasized conflict prevention and mediation in envisioning the future of AU peace and security policies. An atrocity-prevention framework should also be developed, and African Union mediation efforts should be expanded. The role of women in conflict mediation has not advanced nearly enough, and the African Union should consider developing a regional action plan on women and peace and security.

As we approach the African Union's tenth anniversary, we should seize this milestone to take stock and consider where we are going. We all hope that the peace and security challenges in Africa will continue to lessen over time. Improved cooperation between the Security Council and the African Union is critical to that goal. I urge colleagues not only to laud progress but to acknowledge frankly the challenges to that cooperation and to devise concrete ways to match reality to our shared aspirations.

I thank President Zuma again for convening this discussion.

Ms. Pieper (Germany): I too would like to thank you, President Zuma, for convening this important debate today. Let me also thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Mr. Lamamra, as well as the Chairperson of the African Union Peace and Security Council, Mr. Metangula, for their important contributions.

The cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations envisaged in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations is indispensable for finding appropriate solutions to crises and conflicts and for making optimal use of resources and capacities. The partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) is particularly well developed. Their expanding involvement and achievements in past years have made the African Union and the subregional organizations into indispensable actors in resolving crises in Africa. I would especially like to call attention to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). That involvement deserves our great respect.

Another important contribution by the AU to solving humanitarian crises is its regional initiative in the fight against the Lord's Resistance Army. The pragmatic cooperation between the United Nations and the AU in resolving conflicts was recently illustrated when their representatives in charge of issues relating to the Lord's Resistance Army jointly travelled to South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In recent years, much has been accomplished in promoting cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union at both the strategic and operational levels. We especially welcome the regular meetings between the members of the United Nations Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as the work of the United Nations Office to the African Union in Addis Ababa, joint high-level meetings, more desk-to-desk meetings and also the recent joint assessment mission to the Sahel. More progress is possible. We must use both formal and informal means to intensify cooperation. Specifically, I would like to mention the following areas.

At the strategic level, the dialogue between the United Nations Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the AU should be strengthened. The African Union's position and that of subregional organizations are important for the United Nations Security Council when it deals with issues relating to Africa. That does not mean that the positions will always be the same and must always be so. In addition to the annual meetings of the members of the United Nations Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council, Germany supports inviting representatives of the AU and subregional African organizations to the meetings of the United Nations Security Council on an ad hoc basis. At the same time, we welcome the participation of United Nations Special Envoys at meetings of the AU Peace and Security Council.

More attention must be paid to conflict prevention and mediation in the future. The AU, subregional African organizations and the United Nations Secretary-General's special representatives are already active in this field. In the future, they should work together more systematically, both formally and informally. Cooperation between the Peacebuilding Commission and African organizations should also be strengthened in order to support national and regional efforts to consolidate peace.

At the operational level, we should constantly analyze the experience gained in the various partnerships between the United Nations and the AU in the area of peacekeeping, especially the current AMISOM and UNAMID missions, and put that knowledge to use for further cooperation. Examples for such study are providing and training troops and the close integration of political mediation and the presence of peace missions on the ground. Capacity-building in the AU must continue to be pushed forward. The 10-year capacity-building programme has so far proven to be a useful instrument, but clearly defined guidelines for implementing its aims could make it more efficient.

Effective cooperation between the United Nations and the AU on peace and security issues can also profit from the efforts of others, such as the European Union (EU) and bilateral partners. The European Union offers considerable financial and logistical support for African initiatives and capacity-building for the African Union. Worthy of special mention in that context are the joint Africa-EU Partnership on Peace and Security and the African Peace Facility. Well-known examples are the joint efforts of Operation Atalanta, AMISOM and the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM, as well as the EU's support for the AU's efforts within that framework.

Those efforts are complemented by bilateral support. Germany, for example, is currently supporting construction of the peace and security building for the AU Commission in Addis Ababa. We support the AU programme for border management in Africa within the framework of our joint efforts in conflict prevention. We also support the reinforcement of African peace and security structures, for example by training and equipping African police officers for the African Standby Force and for deployment in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Finally, I would like to express the support of my delegation for the draft resolution to be voted on today.

Mr. Courtial (France) (*spoke in French*): Madam President, I wish to thank you for having convened today's debate on cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) in the area of peace and security. I welcome your presence here today, which bears witness to the leadership role that

South Africa intends to play in the Security Council. I wish also to extend my thanks to the Secretary-General for his presentation and for his report (S/2011/805), as well as to Commissioner Lamamra.

I should like to make several observations. As you recalled, Madam President, almost two thirds of the discussions held in the Security Council pertain to Africa, and 80 per cent of all peacekeepers are deployed on the African continent. It is against that backdrop that the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peace and security has continued to grow.

The African Union provides the United Nations with on-the-ground access. Its efforts in that respect bear witness to the fact that the continent is endeavouring to gradually shoulder responsibility for its own security, in accordance with the San Francisco Charter. For its part, the United Nations provides the African Union with legitimacy in the framework of the Charter as well as skills, resources and expertise that can provide support to missions charged with conflict prevention and management on the continent.

Today all our efforts are focused on ensuring that that original partnership, which is fully in line with the spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, lasts and flourishes.

The Secretary-General's report recalls that today conflict prevention, peacekeeping — in the strict sense of the word — and peacebuilding lie at the heart of the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. So as to ensure conflict prevention, the United Nations has established regional offices in Dakar and Libreville and has created partnerships with African organizations.

The United Nations Office in West Africa is fully engaged in initiatives in the area of mediation and good offices, specifically in Guinea, the Niger and Benin, in systematic coordination with the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States.

The new United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, established in Libreville, is tasked with a similar role. Moreover, the African Union is involved in the assessment missions deployed on the ground by the United Nations in the face of the new cross-cutting threats, such as the recent ones in the Sahel region.

In addition to its presence on the ground, the United Nations has strengthened the mediation capacities of the African Union by supporting the creation of a unit to that end within the African Union Commission. That cooperation has increased the capacities of the African Union, which today is carrying out complex mediation missions, particularly in Somalia and the Sudan, where the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, led by Mr. Mbeki, is addressing the settlement of pending disputes between Khartoum and Juba.

In future, the challenge will be to better coordinate the respective mediation efforts of the United Nations and the African Union. The guidelines in this respect that are currently being drawn up will undoubtedly be useful in that context.

The United Nations and the African Union are also cooperating in the conduct of peacekeeping operations. The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur is playing a decisive role in the stabilization of the security and humanitarian situation. One of the challenges facing the mission is that it is governed by a chain of command that is split between the United Nations and the African Union. Experience has shown that strengthening day-to-day cooperation between the Secretariat and the AU Commission will improve the effectiveness of military personnel on the ground.

In Somalia, the United Nations is providing significant logistical support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which is tasked with supporting the Transitional Federal Institutions and the Somali security forces in the establishment of security in the country and in the implementation of the process of political transition. That technical cooperation is crucial to enabling AMISOM to carry out its mission in a particularly complex context and to counter the challenges posed by Al-Shabaab fighters.

While the African Union is calling for increased United Nations support, we should nevertheless ensure that the options put forward not fall exclusively under the domain of security. The progress made by troops on the ground must be consolidated by the implementation of the political strategy by the Transitional Federal Government, backed by the international community, as the Security Council has recalled in several resolutions.

The conduct of peacekeeping operations is, of course, interlinked with the issue of funding, in particular in the current, very difficult budgetary

context. Along those lines, we must seek improved operational effectiveness, in particular by strengthening the chain of command in such operations and by improving cooperation with troop-contributing countries.

We also take note with interest of the efforts made by the African Union to reform its management methods and diversify its sources of funding for peacekeeping operations. The African Peace Facility provided by the European Union is an initial appropriate step in response to the request by the African Union for lasting and predictable funding for its operations. It is crucial that new players step up to the plate so as to guarantee the lasting nature of this funding.

Peacebuilding should also be at the heart of cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. In the Sahel, in West Africa and in the Great Lakes region, we have seen an increasing number of, and a growing interlinkage between, factors of instability, terrorism, trafficking and rebel activity, which undermine the security and integrity of States. Such challenges must spur us to continue to support security sector reform; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration initiatives; and the promotion of the rule of law.

Here I should like to underscore the importance that France attaches to support for the holding of free, fair and peaceful elections. In the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan, the combined efforts of the United Nations, through its peacekeeping operations in the region and its Office in Libreville, and of the African Union in combating the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) are yet another example of the cooperation between these two organizations.

Regional participation is key to finding a lasting solution in the face of that threat. The recent adoption by the African Union of a strategy to combat the LRA is most welcome.

Clearly, challenges to peace and security on the African continent are far from being homogenous. Thus increased cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union is essential. The contacts and meetings promoted by the Secretary-General between the Secretariat and the African Union Commission, as well as between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council, fall within that framework and will, in keeping with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, guarantee the best possible coordination between the African Union and the United Nations. That is also the task of the new United Nations Office to the African Union.

My country welcomes the progress made as a result of the cooperation between the United Nations and the AU and will continue to play an active role in supporting United Nations peacekeeping, as well as the African Union and subregional organizations in terms of both funding and training.

As President Sarkozy stated during the Africa-France summit held in Nice last year, Africa must be a key player with respect to larger issues of peace, security and global equilibrium. France has taken action in that respect and hopes that in the framework of the necessary reform of the Security Council, Africa will assume its rightful place, including among the permanent members.

Mr. Brites Pereira (Portugal): I would like to start by thanking South Africa not only for giving us the opportunity to discuss this important issue, but also for President Jacob Zuma's presiding over the meeting. We are particularly honoured by this fact.

Portugal believes that a strong relation between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) is critical to peace and security on the African continent. Portugal also strongly supports a greater role for the African Union and African subregional organizations in a context that embodies the principle of African ownership when dealing with the major challenges of the continent.

In that regard, I wish to thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kenya and Commissioner Lamamra for their very useful statements. We are also grateful for the report of the Secretary-General (S/2011/805), which provides us with a very useful update on AU-United Nations cooperation in the fields of peace and security. It contains useful conclusions and lessons learned, as well as recommendations on the way forward. It shows us that we still have much to do together to ensure that the existing mechanisms and practices are used to their full potential.

The further development of the AU institutional and political role is unstoppable. The reinforcement of the United Nations presence in Addis Ababa is the recognition of the AU's progressive affirmation as a

leader organization and indispensable player in African peace processes. It also represents a serious effort to make United Nations interaction with the AU more coherent and efficient. Let us not forget that roughly two-thirds of the issues addressed by the Security Council pertain to Africa. As such, the views of the African Union should be adequately taken into consideration in the decision-making process of the Council.

In addition, the ongoing dialogue between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council is critical in that regard. We need to make sure that that dialogue is more substantive and productive. We could achieve that by identifying more clearly the issues of common concern to both bodies, be they country situations or cross-cutting issues. Key among those are human rights, democracy, the rule of law, the defence of women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations, and effectively addressing sexual violence in armed conflicts, especially by bringing the perpetrators to justice. We should also look more carefully at how we can improve the efficiency of our preventive diplomatic initiatives, which should be geared towards more coordinated action.

During its presidency of the Security Council last November, Portugal promoted a debate on new challenges to international peace and security (see S/PV.6668), which feature regularly on the agendas of both the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council. The outcomes of such discussions must be fed into the larger United Nations-AU dialogue, as they will enhance our understanding of and response to specific African security concerns.

Another important aspect of the United Nations-AU relationship is the further development of the African Union's capacities, which should include the areas of mediation and conflict prevention. The African Union and subregional organizations are often much closer to conflict situations on the continent than anyone else and enjoy privileged access to local actors. Those are clear advantages when trying to prevent tensions from escalating into conflict. The United Nations and other international partners, such as the European Union, should thus continue to support the capacities of the African Union. In that regard, the full implementation of the 10-year capacity-building programme is clearly a priority.

Portugal also strongly supports international efforts aimed at strengthening the various dimensions of the African Peace and Security Architecture. Through our active participation in the Africa-European Union Strategic Partnership, we have consistently advocated European financial and technical assistance for African initiatives in the peace and security fields.

On that score, let me underline the important contribution of regional arrangements to peacekeeping, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter. We strongly encourage enhanced cooperation between the United Nations Office to the African Union and the African Union when planning and conducting peacekeeping operations in Africa, as well as on any other initiatives that seek to improve the interoperability between the United Nations and the African Union. Accordingly, we welcome the recently published AU report, detailing its strategic vision on the partnership between the African Union and United Nations in peace and security matters.

We note that the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) are two models of concrete peacekeeping cooperation between the United Nations and the AU. We have learned many lessons from those two experiences, but there is still room for improvement. Meetings such as yesterday's on AMISOM (see S/PV.6701), bringing together key partners from the AU and the United Nations, as well as representatives of countries that contribute troops to AMISOM, are fundamental in that joint learning process. In that way, we will ensure that the strategic dialogue between the two Councils translates into effective operational cooperation on the ground.

Finally, we underscore the fact that contradictory signals from international actors are likely to prolong conflict and delay peaceful solutions in Africa. Stronger United Nations-AU cooperation and a better use of existing channels between those two organizations are clearly the only way to ensure coherence and to avoid the duplication of efforts. Indeed, they are the only way to ensure the effective response of the international community to crises, including when they occur on the African continent. Let us all work together to make sure that that is so.

Mr. Liu Guijin (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China appreciates the initiative of South Africa to hold

today's high-level meeting on the United Nations-African Union (AU) partnership. We are convinced that this meeting will further strengthen the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the AU, build consensus and bolster efforts to resolve conflicts in Africa and to achieve peace and security on the continent.

In June 2008, during its presidency of the Council, South Africa convened a high-level meeting on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union (see S/PV.5868), at which broad consensus was reached on establishing a strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. Over the past three years, thanks to the concerted efforts of all parties, cooperation between the United Nations and the AU has increased and yielded effective results.

Various forms of exchange and cooperation mechanisms have been established between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council and between the United Nations Secretariat and the AU Commission. With the assistance of the United Nations, the AU has strengthened its internal mechanism and capacity-building, and cooperation between the two sides has led to progress on issues such as Darfur and Somalia and enhanced peace and security in Africa.

However, it should be noted that Africa remains the continent with the highest number of conflicts and the most fragile security situation. Faced with a plethora of interconnected traditional and non-traditional security threats, constrained by its capacity and lack of resources, the AU finds itself unable to cope with all the challenges alone. It is of even greater concern that some AU peace efforts in recent years have not received the timely and effective support of the international community and failed to achieve the anticipated results. That is detrimental to the long-term development of the United Nations-AU partnership.

The international situation is now undergoing complex and profound changes. The prosperity and future of countries have never been as closely interlinked as today. Under such circumstances, peace and security in Africa have a direct impact on the interests and well-being of each and every member of the international community. Helping Africa to deal with global challenges is not only the unshirkable responsibility of the international community, it is also in the common interests of all parties. As the most universal, representative and authoritative intergovernmental organization in the world, the United Nations has a unique role to play in supporting and assisting Africa. It should work hand in hand with the AU to build on the results of, and increase, the existing cooperation in order to make a greater contribution to peace and development in Africa. In that connection, China wishes to make the following proposals.

First, we should take full account of the importance of Africa and continue to increase input in the continent. In recent years, the United Nations and the international community have increased their investment in Africa, but it still falls short of the huge demand from Africa. Against the backdrop of a bleak global economy, with countries facing fiscal contraction, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the international community to increase assistance to Africa. Nevertheless, we should still view Africa from a strategic and long-term perspective and fully understand the significant impact of African peace and development on the prosperity and security of the world as a whole. We need to address African issues with a greater sense of urgency and continue to increase input in Africa. The United Nations and the international community should heed the views of African countries and earnestly address their concerns. The United Nations should continue to mobilize funds, optimize the allocation of its resources and give priority to efforts aimed at building peace and security in Africa.

Secondly, African efforts to resolve African issues should be strongly supported. In recent years, African countries have actively engaged in settling conflicts in Africa. The relevant African countries and the AU have played their role in the settlement of the Libyan crisis. China highly commends the leadership of South Africa and of His Excellency President Zuma in that regard. We believe that many African issues have complicated causes and involve the interests of many parties. As a regional organization built and led by Africans, the AU has a better understanding of those situations. Moreover, African parties are generally very cautious about external interventions. They are more likely to accept peace and mediation efforts from fellow Africans. In that regard, the international

community should have faith in the wisdom and experience of African people, take into full account the opinions of the AU and provide all manner of support to the AU in its efforts to carry out mediation, good offices and peacekeeping missions. We encourage the United Nations and the AU to increase communication and coordination so as to give full play to their comparative advantages.

Thirdly, we should assist the AU in strengthening capacity-building. As a Chinese saying goes, it is better to teach one the skill of fishing than to offer him fish. In the long run, peace and development in Africa mainly relies on the efforts of the AU and African countries themselves. The AU, however, is constrained by insufficient capacity in human resources, material and financing. The UN and the international community should respond sincerely to the legitimate requests of the AU and strengthen cooperation with the AU in personnel training, institutional development, the sharing of information and experience, the management of resources, logistic support and other areas. In the meantime, the United Nations should enlist other countries in providing assistance. In recent years, the United Nations has undertaken some active exploration and gained positive experience in providing assistance to the African Union Mission in Somalia and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. Such exploration and experience merit timely study, assessment and dissemination.

China highly values its friendly relations and cooperation with the AU. The development of our friendly relations has gained momentum in recent years. China appreciates and fully supports what the AU has done to resolve hotspot issues in Africa, and has provided financial and material assistance to the AU. China will continue to work with the international community to support the close strategic and cooperative relationship between the United Nations and the AU, and make its contribution to African peace and security.

Mr. Esaw (Togo) (*spoke in French*): I would like to join the Secretary-General and previous speakers in thanking the South African presidency of the Security Council for the organization of this debate on the important issue of the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) in the maintenance of international peace and security. I also welcome the presence in the Chamber of His Excellency President Jacob Zuma of South Africa to preside personally over this debate, thereby illustrating his country's adherence to the principles of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, especially the African Union. The presence here today of representatives of the African Union and subregional economic communities is testament to the high degree of attention that such cooperation enjoys in the daily management of United Nations and African Union affairs.

The latest comprehensive and very informative report (S/2011/805) of the Secretary-General on that cooperation, which is rooted in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, should be commended. My delegation welcomes it. The report addresses the crucial issues on which that cooperation is based, namely, ensuring peace and security through peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations; security sector reform; the protection of civilians; humanitarian efforts; and human rights. More than just cooperation, as the report repeatedly highlights, this is about a partnership. The report also indicates that the two organizations acknowledge a shared responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security on the African continent, even as it is understood that, in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter, the primary responsibility in that regard falls above all on the United Nations and, in particular, the Security Council.

That partnership has taken root throughout the years, with joint efforts having been undertaken that have produced conclusive results. The establishment, in July 2010, of the United Nations Office to the African Union was aimed at strengthening cooperation and coordination between the two organizations in the area of peace and security. The establishment, on 25 September 2010, of an AU-United Nations working group on peace and security reflected the desire to strengthen the strategic partnership covering various areas, including the protection of civilians and human rights. The coordination that took place at the highest levels last year on the situations in Côte d'Ivoire, Libya, the Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia, which continues today, illustrates the desire of the United Nations, in cooperation with the African Union, to find peaceful ways to resolve many crises and conflicts on the African continent, which makes up more than 60 per cent of the issues on the agenda of the Security Council.

It is by drawing lessons learned from past experience and from the cooperation between the two organizations with regard to peacekeeping operations on the African continent, as was the case with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), that this strategic partnership takes on its full significance.

Indeed, with respect to AMISOM, the frequent lack of coordination, delays in mobilizing logistical support and inadequate financial resources have long been at the very heart of the Mission's mixed results. Although the situation may have changed, it remains true that AMISOM continues to experience all sorts of difficulties.

My country believes that one aspect of the United Nations-AU partnership that should be a priority is cooperation in conflict prevention and mediation. In presidential statement S/PRST/2010/14, adopted following the open debate of 16 July 2010 (S/PV.6360) organized by the Nigerian presidency on the instruments of preventive diplomacy, notably in Africa, the Security Council deemed it necessary to make cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in Africa closer and more operational in order to create regional and national capacities to use the instruments of preventive diplomacy, including mediation, data collection and analysis, early warning mechanisms, prevention and peacemaking.

From a subregional perspective, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has long made prevention, mediation and the peaceful settlement of disputes a pillar of its policy. The adoption in 2001 of an additional protocol on democracy and good governance was part and parcel of such efforts. We welcome the active role being played by the United Nations Office for West Africa in that initiative, pursuant to its mandate. In the final analysis, preventive diplomacy remains by far the most cost-effective of all peacekeeping activities because it is less expensive and allows the use of weapons to be avoided. It should therefore be favoured.

The most recent report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office (S/2011/811) notes its many activities, organized jointly with ECOWAS, on matters as diverse as drug trafficking, piracy at sea, organized crime and the proliferation of all manner of weapons, in particular in the Sahel. The United Nations has developed improved cooperation with the African Union and subregional organizations in these areas in recent years. The fight against these scourges must be stepped up.

My country welcomes the establishment of a similar office in Central Africa on 1 January 2011. The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa became operational on 2 March of that year. The security problems encountered in that region require the United Nations ongoing presence.

Another important aspect of United Nations-AU cooperation is the protection of civilians. In helping the African Union to develop guidelines in that field, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has shown that peacekeeping operations have made such protection a priority. The training of troops in the implementation of the guidelines should be extended and supported financially.

As we have seen, there are many areas in which cooperation exists between the United Nations and the AU. Progress has been made, but much remains to be done. The United Nations and the African Union have therefore agreed to create a series of mechanisms, including the joint support and coordination mechanism within the framework of UNAMID.

Despite such efforts to coordinate the activities of both organizations in order to allow them to manage crises more efficiently, certain shortcomings remain in United Nations-AU cooperation. The management of the Ivorian and Libyan crises last year demonstrated the dysfunction between the two organizations, and in particular the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council. The prevarication concerning the action to be undertaken in those crises was very harmful to the populations involved. Decisions must be taken jointly and responsibilities defined in serious situations.

Clearly, the need for the participation of regional and subregional organizations in the settlement of conflicts is irrefutable. Regional actors play a crucial role, because subregional organizations have their own conflict-settlement mechanisms based on the cultural and social particularities of the countries and regions in crisis. The rules they establish for conflict prevention must be observed on a priority basis.

My country firmly believes that the opinions of regional and subregional actors must guide the joint action of the AU Peace and Security Council and the Security Council. Our organ, which has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, must be attuned to the needs of the regional and subregional organizations, including regional economic communities, and avoid getting bogged down in speculation, which is harmful not only to the Council's authority, but also to the lives and security of people in distress.

Another problem facing United Nations-AU cooperation is the lack of sufficient resources to support the peace operations established by the African Union. AMISOM is often cited as one example of that. While Somalia has experienced an unprecedented situation for the past 20 years, the efforts of the international community still fall short of what is needed to resolve that lengthy conflict. The displacement of people within that country and the thousands of refugees in neighbouring countries are the result of the crisis. Wishing to solve the problem of refugees and the hungry without settling the basic conflict could be considered the equivalent of trying to cauterize a wooden leg.

In the light of all these observations, we need to strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, especially with respect to the challenges raised by new threats to international peace and security. I refer in particular to terrorism and transnational organized crime in the Sahel, and to piracy at sea, which threatens the peace and security of the countries of West Africa and on the Gulf of Guinea. In both cases, capacity-building and the allocation of financial resources are crucial challenges to be addressed by the partnership between the United Nations and the AU and subregional organizations.

We also believe that a clear definition of complementarity and subsidiarity, as well as the predictable allocation of resources, would help to make the partnership between the two organizations more effective. Togo sincerely hopes that today's debate will be an opportunity for the Security Council to strengthen and promote the bases of its necessary cooperation with the African Union Peace and Security Council with a view to taking more effective, coordinated and swift action in peacekeeping and the management of crises on the continent.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I thank you, Madam, for scheduling the discussion on relations between the United Nations and regional organizations. President Zuma's presence earlier, together with that of the Secretary-General, Commissioner Lamamra and other honourable ministers, underlines the importance of the issue. I believe that it is also one of the most important strategic challenges facing the Security Council.

Since the Security Council last debated this topic, the United Nations and regional organizations have worked increasingly closely on matters of peace and security. While mindful of the Security Council's primary responsibility, the United Kingdom supports efforts to further enhance relations between the Council and regional organizations on peace and security.

That is not always straightforward. We have seen in the past 12 months major differences of substance between the League of Arab States and the African Union, two separate regional organizations, on Libya. There have also been differences of approach between subregional and regional organizations, such as between the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union on Côte d'Ivoire and between the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and some members of the African Union on Eritrea. Such complexities cannot be swept under the carpet.

The relationship also needs to be taken forward in a manner consistent with the Charter of the United Nations. Efforts should make the most of the complementarities between the United Nations and individual regional organizations. Such organizations often have comparative strengths, such as their knowledge of social, ethnic, historical and political issues in their regions and their ability to convene regional States. That is particular true for subregional organizations.

The situation surrounding issues of peace and security are diverse. Each needs to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, which calls for an emphasis on timely communication and consultation and the avoidance of procedures that are inflexible in the face of varied and urgent challenges.

While underlining the importance that the United Kingdom attaches to the United Nations relationship with all regional organizations — including, of course,

the European Union — I would like to concentrate today on the United Nations relationship with the African Union, a relationship that the United Kingdom has sought to encourage.

We believe that good progress has been made. The African Union and Africa's subregional organizations have been among the most active in pursuing peace and security. The United Nations and the African Union have together worked effectively in many countries across the continent. But, equally, there have been cases, such as that of the Sudan, where managing the complexities of the United Nations/African Union relationship has proved challenging.

The United Nations/African Union relationship is becoming deeper and more productive. We have seen increasing cooperation on the institutional relationship, capacity-building and peacekeeping. I would like to comment briefly on each of those areas in turn.

On the institutional relationship, I welcome the intensified cooperation between the Secretariat and the African Union Commission. I also welcome the annual meeting between the Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council. As Ambassador Rice has pointed out, those meetings have not always been easy, but it is right that they should be a forum for substantive discussion, enabling us to be aware of each other's perspectives. I encourage the two presidencies and Secretariats to ensure that such meetings are well prepared.

Capacity-building needs to be at the heart of the relationship between the United Nations and the African Union and its subregional organizations. That is essential if those organizations are to deliver on the responsibilities they have assumed for peace and security on the continent and to build on the progress that has been made in developing the African Peace and Security Architecture. In that context, I reaffirm the United Kingdom's commitment to support the 10-year capacity-building programme.

Finally, let me turn to peacekeeping led by the African Union. Yesterday, we heard a briefing from African Union Commissioner Lamamra on the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), a mission that plays a critical role in efforts to establish peace and stability in Somalia. The United Kingdom is grateful for the efforts and the courage of the AMISOM troops. We look forward to the Secretary-General's recommendations on AMISOM later this month, and we are ready to lead a constructive Security Council response to those recommendations.

Peacekeeping missions such as AMISOM have benefited from developments in the relationship between the United Nations and the African Union. By linking operational support and capacity-building, the United Nations Office to the African Union has provided assistance in real time that will also deliver in the long term. The European Union and bilateral donors have made very significant contributions in that regard, including supporting the development of the African Standby Force. The first operational deployment by the Eastern African Standby Force has been made in support of AMISOM and is being closely supported by the United Kingdom.

Looking ahead, I would like to conclude with three recommendations. First, a one-size-fits-all approach to the institutional relationship is unrealistic. The relationship developed with one regional organization should not set a precedent for relations with others. The first step would be for the Security Council to give a fuller consideration to all the issues involved at a Security Council retreat.

Secondly, we would like to see greater cooperation on early warning and rapid preventive diplomacy between the United Nations and the African Union and other organizations, such as the European Union and the Arab League. With their unique geographical insight, regional organizations have a key role to play in early warning and mitigating the risks of conflict through preventive diplomacy. Greater donor coordination of capacity-building support will facilitate regional organizations' efforts in those areas.

Finally, while noting that regional organizations have primary responsibility for securing human, financial, logistical and other resources for their organizations, the United Kingdom would like to encourage international partners to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing regional organizations when they undertake peacekeeping under a United Nations mandate. In offering that support, our focus should be on improving effectiveness and efficiency and on building a culture of accountability, transparency and professionalism.

The United Kingdom supports the draft resolution to be adopted at the end of today's debate (S/2012/25). We have, however, concerns about some of the

ambiguities in the text as a result of the somewhat hurried negotiation process. I shall be making an explanation of vote to clarify our position on those points.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Madam President, we are pleased to welcome you as you preside over today's meeting of the Security Council. We welcome the participation at today's meeting of President Jacob Zuma, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, African Union (AU) Commissioner Ramtane Lamamra, and the Chair of the AU Peace and Security Council, Mr. Moses Wetangula.

The African Union and subregional organizations in Africa are playing an increasingly active role in the settlement of conflicts and crises on the continent, demonstrating the preparedness and ability to shoulder responsibility for resolving their issues. We are pleased to note that they attach great importance to the political and diplomatic settlement of conflicts. In many cases, that has won significant results. In particular, many mediation efforts undertaken by retired and active African politicians have proven their effectiveness. In other cases, very useful and constructive proposals have been put forward, but by no fault of African partners have not been acted upon.

The effectiveness of multilateral approaches to settling contemporary crises should logically lead the United Nations to develop a partnership with the African Union. Such cooperation must be underpinned, first and foremost, by Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, which assigns to the Security Council the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, while underlining the complementarity of United Nations efforts and those of regional organizations, and encouraging each to draw on its own comparative advantages. We are convinced that scaling up such partnerships will significantly bolster the global capacity to respond to crises and promote peace on the African continent through, inter alia, early warning of crises, their timely settlement and post-conflict rebuilding.

We believe it important to further and actively step up the African Union's initiatives on the continent in preventive diplomacy and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Of particular relevance in that regard is the implementation of the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union. We hope for tangible, practical results, from the establishment of a continental system of early warning and the African Standby Force, which would be able to react swiftly to emerging crises in African countries, with the participation, if necessary, of the Security Council. It is important to provide dynamic assistance in bolstering the African peacekeeping toolkit and establishing a pan-African security architecture so as to ensure that mechanisms of conflict settlement and prevention on the continent are fully exploited.

Russia supports the growing independent role of African organizations in maintaining peace on the continent and has consistently called for the steps taken by the African Union in that regard to be backed by the authority of the Council. Against that backdrop, it is encouraging to note the consistently evolving forum of partnership between the United Nations and the African Union.

Hybrid peacekeeping forces in Darfur are effectively operating under the auspices of the United Nations and the AU. Active efforts are being made to move the Darfur peace process forward and overcome the issues between the Sudan and South Sudan. A cooperation mechanism to resolve the situation in Somalia has been launched. Those are examples of innovative models of cooperation, which can and must be drawn upon in the future, provided that the necessary improvements are made.

We support the Secretary-General's proposal for the United Nations Secretariat and the AU Commission to prepare joint assessments and recommendations, which would be used in taking decisions on crises in Africa, as was the case, for example, with the Council-mandated African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

An important component of coordination could be the United Nations Office at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa. Given the unique purview of the Security Council, which under the United Nations Charter is tasked with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security, we advocate the further development of practical cooperation between the United Nations Security Council and AU Peace and Security Council so that targeted solutions can be identified. Those solutions would frame that cooperative relationship and ensure that emerging military and political crises on the continent are met with swift, agreed and effective responses.

As a permanent member of the Security Council, Russia works to improve strategies for the settlement of African conflicts and plays an active role in drawing up and implementing international cooperation and assistance programmes in Africa, including the preparation and training of African peacekeepers in Russian institutions.

We stand ready to continue to provide assistance to African peacekeepers and multifaceted aid as part of efforts to resolve African issues on the basis of an open, equitable and mutually beneficial partnership that does not involve a supervisory mentality, ideological stereotypes or nationally biased approaches.

The President: There are still a number of speakers remaining on my list for this meeting. Given the lateness of the hour, however, I intend, with the concurrence of Council members, to suspend the meeting until 3.30 p.m.

The meeting was suspended at 1.25 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6702 (Resumption 1)

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6702nd meeting

Thursday, 12 January 2012, 3.30 p.m.
New York

President:	Ms. Nkoana-Mashabane	(South Africa)
Members:	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mammadyarov
	China	Mr. Liu Guijin
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Bonne
	Germany	Mr. Eick
	Guatemala	Mr. Rodas Melgar
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Haroon
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zhukov
	Togo	Mr. Esaw
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

Strengthening the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in the maintenance of international peace and security

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations-African Union cooperation in peace and security (S/2011/805)

Letter dated 4 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2012/13)

Letter dated 9 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2012/20)

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The meeting resumed at 3.45 p.m.

Mr. Haroon (Pakistan): Pakistan's delegation warmly welcomes you, Madam President, to the Security Council. As we wish you and your delegation a productive visit, we warmly congratulate South Africa and the African National Congress on its one-hundredth anniversary. In that light, it is befitting that President Zuma's statement compels attention as a veritable tour de force in Africa. His role in the African Union should be viewed as historically groundbreaking. We also thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his rightfully vast report (S/2011/805) and for his briefing on Africa. We also thank the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan, Colombia, Guatemala and Kenya, as well as the African Union Commissioner, for their participation and for their important statements. We also welcome the representatives who have come from China, France, Germany, Portugal and Togo to take part in today's debate.

Africa continuously defies its detractors, not only by progressing but by committing itself to the challenges of peace and security, including the building of bridges with the international and regional comity of nations. We commend the timely epoch-building initiative of South Africa to hold a debate on the African Union (AU)-United Nations relationship. The high-level participation is a necessary reflection of the close attention being paid to those linkages by the leadership of Africa. After all, this is the nation that gave the world the concept of transitional law, and that then peacefully upheld the rule of law in a manner that humankind can learn from.

This forum's venture today would not be complete without invoking the great example of President Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. That is world-class leadership.

Asia and Africa are bound by strong interlinkages of history and friendship. The early twentieth century witnessed mutually inspiring independence movements in the South Asian subcontinent and the freedom struggle in Africa. Pakistan's strong support for Africa's decolonization struggle is well known. Today the two continents are partners in their respective peace and development and in the prosperity of their people. With 70 per cent of world trade binding our shores in the future, the world shall have to take note.

I salute African wisdom and sagacity, because while most regional organizations are based solely on trade and economic considerations, Africa has made significant strides to conceive the challenge of peace and security as a collective responsibility. The African Union is an embodiment of that pioneering spirit.

Within a decade of its foundation, the African Union has created a solid edifice for peace in Africa, in the form of African Peace and Security Architecture. The Architecture stands on institutions like the AU Peace and Security Council, the Panel of the Wise, the African Standby Force and the Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework. A set of subregional organizations further strengthens the Architecture.

The AU has evolved tangible remedial measures for the entire spectrum of a conflict cycle. From preventive diplomacy and mediation efforts to active peacekeeping, peacebuilding and catalysing political processes, the continent is using a wide range of instruments in the international toolkit for peace and security. The world can learn from that. The Africa of today has sagaciously resorted to the vast spectrum of modalities for peaceful settlement of disputes, as envisaged in Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter — a practice that merits emulation by the Council.

The cooperation between the AU and the United Nations in peace and security adds value to the work of both organizations, particularly in matters of peace and security. The AU Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council define the AU-United Nations relationship at a strategic level. The AU Commission and the United Nations Secretariat provide the administrative foundation for that partnership. It is worthwhile noting that Africa's consensual and united position for enhanced representation at the Security Council, which is a legitimate demand, will also eventually strengthen the cooperation between the two bodies.

Contacts between the AU and the United Nations, particularly between their two Councils, are too slowly evolving into a common strategic vision in areas of prevention and management, and manifest themselves in a lack of resolution of conflicts. That vision should forge enhanced political coherence to address the challenges of peace and security. While coordinating the evolution of a common strategic vision will be

incremental, we believe that an expressly targeted focus on three key areas will further enhance cooperation between the two bodies.

First, efforts should be made to ensure that the annual consultative mechanism between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council translates into formulating cohesive positions and strategies. The two Councils can do so by holding more frequent and informal exchanges, especially among their respective presidencies. Such exchanges need to be replicated between the AU Commission and the Secretariat, as well as among other relevant bodies in the AU and United Nations systems, namely, the Peacebuilding Commission and its five country configurations, which are all related to Africa.

Secondly, regular interaction with subregional organizations in Africa will be critical to developing commonalities in respective decisions relating to peace and security, thereby ensuring their smooth implementation. In this regard, the Security Council has already expressed clear intentions in its presidential statement of 13 January 2010 (S/PRST/2010/1). The challenge is to translate the intent into action.

Finally, AU-United Nations cooperation — as noted by President Zuma as well — can be optimized by strict prioritization in areas of building local capacities. Considering that most of the AU's work on peace and security is based on Chapter VI provisions related to the pacific settlement of disputes, the two organizations can identify relevant areas for capacity-building cooperation in mediation, arbitration and other measures relating to preventive diplomacy.

Another avenue of cooperation could be security sector reform (SSR). The AU has developed an elaborate SSR policy framework for implementation, which must be supported by the United Nations. It would also be important to widen the discourse of AU-United Nations cooperation beyond the work of the Security Council to include issues such as fair trade practices, food and environmental security, and investment in governance institutions.

Let me conclude by stating that Pakistan, as an observer State of the AU and a country in search of peace and stability in its own neighbourhood, identifies closely with the theme of today's debate. Out of nearly 10,000 Pakistani peacekeepers in the United Nations missions around the world, 9,000 are performing duties in Africa. In the peace and stability of Africa, we see their safety and eventual safe return home. In the economic progress of Africa, we see opportunities for the whole global South, including Pakistan.

We hope that today's debate and high-level participation, together with the draft resolution to be adopted later (S/2012/25) will further concretize the modalities of AU-United Nations cooperation and pave the way of constructive collaboration. Pakistan is today a proud co-sponsor of the important draft resolution before the Council.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of India.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): At the outset, I would like to thank the South African delegation for organizing today's debate. I also want to put on record my sincere personal thanks to you, Madam President, and to President Jacob Zuma for presiding over this meeting. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General and the representatives of the African Union (AU) and the subregional organizations for their valuable statements. The presence of so many high-level dignitaries from the capitals testifies to the importance of today's discussion.

We appreciate the initiative of the South African delegation to organize a workshop of the interested stakeholders in preparation for today's meeting. It put in clear terms the steps that are required for enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. These are also reflected in the draft resolution that is before the Council for adoption today (S/2012/25), which we have the privilege of co-sponsoring.

A much as two-thirds of the active items on the Council's agenda concern Africa. About three-fourths of the Council's time is spent on African issues. It would therefore be no exaggeration to say that the success of the efforts of this Council in Africa will determine in significant measure its overall effectiveness in the implementation of its Charter-mandated role as the principal organ of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

In this connection, it is important for us to listen to Africa and its organizations so that the Council's activities will not only be based on Africa's needs, but will also complement those of African countries and

organizations. Cooperation with Africa will also enable the Council to act with better understanding of the situation on the ground, which would establish Africa's ownership of the solutions and promote lasting peace and security on the African continent.

Indeed, Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter recognizes the importance of regional organizations and their role in matters relating to international peace and security. The Charter also provides a broad framework for the Council's cooperation with regional organizations. We therefore support the strengthening of partnership between the United Nations and the African Union.

We think that this partnership should be based on long-term strategic and operational perspectives, taking into consideration the complementarity of the strengths that the two organizations possess. Focus should be on capacity-building of the African Peace and Security Architecture so that the AU becomes a more effective and capable partner of the United Nations system. In this connection, we welcome the establishment of the United Nations Office to the African Union, which should facilitate systematic and broad-based cooperation between the two organizations. We expect the Office to expeditiously establish formalized structures of interaction with different AU bodies and subregional organizations. Other steps, such as the annual dialogue between the Council and the AU Peace and Security Council, the Secretary-General's 10-year capacity-building programme for the AU, linkages between the United Nations and AU Secretariats, inter alia, are also welcome and should facilitate regular consultation.

The African Union has already proven beyond any doubt its ability to address African problems. The AU High-level Implementation Panel for the Sudan has facilitated dialogue between the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. We continue to support its efforts for peace and security in Darfur through the Darfur political process. Similarly, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is the mainstay of international efforts to stabilize the situation in Somalia. The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur has greatly helped in the improvement of the situation there, including through community welfare programmes.

If these missions are to succeed and other joint missions undertaken in the future, it is necessary that there be better understanding between the United Nations and the AU at the strategic and operational levels. The Council should be more forthcoming in extending support to the AU in the critical areas of financial resources, force multipliers and force enablers, as may be required by the missions.

If cooperation between the United Nations and the AU is to be effective and enduring, it is necessary that the Council not adopt a selective approach to this cooperation. Partnership should not be restricted only to the areas of the Council's convenience, but also extended to areas where there may be differences, and be based on mutual respect. This requires a mindset change in approach and demands the expansion of the permanent membership to make the Council reflective of contemporary realities and increased representation of developing countries, including those of Africa. This will not only make the Council more representative, but also enhance its ability to successfully address the challenges that the international community faces today.

Conscious of the AU's role in handling African issues, not only those concerning peace and security but also those related to social and development matters, India has institutionalized its cooperation with the African Union. I would like to recall here the historic visit of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Addis Ababa in May 2011 to participate in the second Africa-India Forum Summit, signifying the importance of our relations with African States. Given the similarity of our objectives with those of the African Union, the Summit further deepened the India-AU development partnership, as well as peace and security cooperation.

India has contributed $2 million for AMISOM operations — $1.5 million through the AU — without any caveats. India is also providing credit lines of $5 billion for the next three years to help Africa achieve its development goals. India will provide an additional $700 million for the establishment of new institutions and training programmes, in consultation with the African Union and its institutions. India is also offering 22,000 scholarships in various areas of capacity-building to African nationals during the three year period from 2011 to 2014.

All those activities will enhance the AU's institutional capacity, and help the Council as well in

dealing with African issues, in partnership with the AU.

Mr. Loulichki (Morocco) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to express our gratitude to you, Madam President, for convening this meeting. Let me also thank His Excellency Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his presence and effective participation during this morning's deliberations.

Morocco, a founding member of the Organization of African Unity, has placed stability and development on the African continent at the heart of its foreign policy priorities, while adopting an approach of cooperation and solidarity in addressing the economic, social, political and security challenges that hamper comprehensive development in Africa. Since acceding to membership of the United Nations, Morocco has also been committed to contributing to the achievement of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, both in the area of the maintenance of international peace and security and in cooperating to achieve sustainable development and ensure the advancement of, and respect for, human rights.

In line with that long and ongoing commitment at the continental and international levels, Morocco has made serious contributions to every genuine effort aimed at heightening cooperation between the United Nations and the African continent, in full respect for the jurisdiction and specificities of both partners. In that context, Morocco has made a positive contribution to international and regional efforts to resolve numerous conflicts. Morocco has always contributed to United Nations peacekeeping operations, especially in Africa. Based on the same conviction, the Kingdom of Morocco has supported democratic transformation in many African States. And we have contributed to consolidating stability in those countries through effective cooperation in crucial areas related to sustainable development. Given the interdependence between economic development and achieving peace and security, Morocco has supported development in Africa by strengthening trade relations and economic investment and efforts at creating promising projects.

No one doubts the crucial role of subregional organizations and groupings in achieving continental and regional aspirations, in particular in Africa. That is the reason for our commitment to the greater Maghreb project and our ongoing readiness to operationalize it as soon as possible in order to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the five States that comprise it.

Based on our belief in the need to develop and promote forums for cooperation and coordination among African States, Morocco, in cooperation with other brotherly African States, has established the 22-member Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean. The goal of the Conference is to work together to share expertise in various areas, including human and sustainable development and combating organized crime.

Achieving the shared objectives of the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular in the area of international peace and security, must take into consideration the following aspects.

First, there must be a clear understanding and vision and respect for the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the charters of regional organizations.

Secondly, with regard to the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Charter of the United Nations calls on the Council to encourage the peaceful resolution of local conflicts through regional organizations, on the basis of requests by the States concerned or through a referral by the Council, in full respect with other provisions of the Charter.

Thirdly, there should be joint assessments and consultations between parties in order to avoid any competition likely to hamper or delay the ending of a conflict and the resolution of a dispute.

Fourthly, the United Nations and regional organizations must pre-empt conflicts and disputes and prevent them from escalating.

Fifthly, the root causes of conflict should be addressed, in particular on the economic, political and security levels. In addition, any trends towards cessation, instability and terrorism must be combated. The United Nations, including its entire membership and all its agencies, should strengthen its support for efforts to achieve comprehensive development, as well as to contribute to encouraging reform, democratic transformation and good governance.

Sixthly, in cases that concern more than one regional organization, experience has demonstrated the need for consultation among such organizations, as well as with the United Nations. That would help to avoid the duplication of effort and potential competition, as well as to identify the most qualified organization to address a given situation.

The African Maghreb, proud of its strong historic relations with its brothers on the continent, is fully prepared to support every United Nations effort to strengthen the security and stability of African States, in full respect for their sovereignty, independence, national unity and territorial integrity. We are also prepared to participate effectively in any effort to combat terrorism, piracy and the scourge of drugs, which threaten the safety and security of our brothers in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

Finally, I would like to draw the attention of the Council and the Secretariat to the Arabic text of the draft resolution before the Council. It has many shortcomings, including misspellings and parts that appear to be truncated. I would like that to be addressed.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Ethiopia in her capacity as the Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

Ms. Sinegiorgis (Ethiopia): At the outset, I wish to express our appreciation to the Republic of South Africa for organizing this open debate on the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU), as well as for providing the concept note (S/2012/20) and for making it possible for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to participate in this very important debate.

In the same vein, I would like to commend the Secretariat for the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations-African Union cooperation in peace and security (S/2011/805).

I also wish to seize this opportunity to commend the African Union Peace and Security Council for organizing a debate on the same subject at the beginning of the week in Addis Ababa, and the African Union Commission for issuing a comprehensive report concerning this critical partnership. The meeting in Addis Ababa was indeed a very important event, which gave us the opportunity to redouble our resolve to strengthen the African Union's partnership with the United Nations, based on the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, as well as the principles of complementarity, subsidiarity, burden-sharing, comparative advantages and flexibility.

I also wish to associate myself and, indeed, fully subscribe to the statements delivered by Commissioner Lamamra and Mr. Moses Wetangula.

In our view, this debate has come at the right time — a time when Africa is making tremendous efforts to address the peace and security deficit, at the continental and subregional levels, through the African Peace and Security Architecture.

IGAD is encouraged by the level of cooperation that exists between the United Nations, on the one hand, and the African Union and African subregional organizations, such as IGAD, on the other. We also welcome the intention to consider further steps to promote closer cooperation. We note with appreciation that, in the past few years, significant strides have been made in conflict resolution, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction. That is indeed in consonance with the overriding objective of the African Union's peace and security agenda, which is to create an enabling momentum for a more integrated, peaceful and prosperous Africa.

In this regard, the signing and implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in the Sudan, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the African Union Mission in Somalia are illustrative examples of cooperation based on flexibility and making best use of the comparative advantages of the African Union, subregional organizations such as IGAD and the United Nations in the areas of effective mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding strategies.

In IGAD, we always emphasize the overriding role of the African Union in matters of continental peace and security. It is because of this unwavering commitment that we make every effort to coordinate subregional efforts with our continental organization. It must be underlined that no meeting of IGAD, at any level whatsoever and no matter how sensitive the issue on the agenda, takes place without the presence of the African Union. We have no doubt that, by acting together, we have the potential to produce results beyond the sum of the constituent parts.

Despite many positive developments, the challenges of clarity of mandate, capacity deficit and predictable, flexible and timely financing remain issues of concern. Therefore, it is vital that all parties concerned continue their engagements in activities aimed at reaching innovative and feasible solutions to those important elements of a comprehensive and effective implementation of this strategic partnership.

While emphasizing the need to consolidate these gains, we believe that the African Union, and through it subregional organizations like IGAD, should be supported by the Security Council, based on the principles of complementarity and subsidiarity, as enunciated in Chapter VIII of United Nations Charter. We are of the view that those continental and subregional organizations are better placed in terms of geographical proximity, political and cultural familiarity with local conditions, and shared experiences with regard to regional peace and security initiatives. Hence, without prejudice to the global mandate of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, the international community will benefit by lending the requisite support to those institutions for the maintenance of regional peace and security.

In this regard, greater efforts are required to ensure that the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union is more effective, including through joint planning and joint assessments for peace operations on the continent. Those efforts must be guided by respect for each organization's mandate and responsibilities, seeking the best division of labour among them.

The mandate of the Security Council is clear. It is the body that has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, but it should not be too difficult to apply Chapter VIII with flexibility and wisdom, the goal being to address a common challenge. Indeed, the results IGAD has achieved, in partnership with the AU, in the Sudan, Somalia and other areas of regional security concern are illustrative of what can be achieved in this regard. Thus, we would like to emphasize the need for the United Nations to intensify such regional initiatives and to accelerate its efforts to implement the United Nations 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union. More strident efforts are also required to fully operationalize the African Union's African Peace and Security Architecture, including the African Standby Force and the continental early warning system.

Furthermore, the enhancement of cooperation between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, including the annual consultations, is vital for reaching those objectives. It is our considered view that those meetings should result in concrete action on the modalities and means for the development of strategic partnerships when addressing specific issues of mutual interest and concern. In this regard, concrete steps should also be taken to strengthen the policy-level coordination between those two important entities to avoid not only conflicting positions but also duplication of efforts.

At the operational level, the Secretariat and the African Union Commission need to ensure the complementarities of their efforts, as well as realistic benchmarks and timelines. Strengthening the efforts of the African Union and its institutional capacity to effectively plan, deploy and manage peacekeeping operations is a key prerequisite for their success. It is also of high importance that the African Union ensure leadership and ownership of the process. That will require greater partnerships, inclusiveness and purposeful leadership. We believe that there is scope in the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union to incorporate those vital elements.

Our best intentions, however, will amount to nothing if we fail to provide adequate, flexible and predictable funding for peacekeeping operations in Africa. It is also necessary to coordinate efforts between the United Nations and regional organizations. IGAD strongly supports closer collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union and subregional organizations. To stimulate a more comprehensive engagement of regional organizations, we must replace old habits and institutional protectionism with an open and flexible approach, adapted to the particular situation at hand.

Allow me to conclude by expressing our congratulations to the new members of the Council and our immense gratitude to Gabon and Nigeria for having represented Africa in such an excellent manner.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Nigeria in her capacity as Chair of the Economic Community of West African States.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): Allow me to convey Nigeria's profound appreciation to the Republic of South Africa for having convened this high-level meeting in continuation of the dialogue on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU). Let me affirm Nigeria's unalloyed support for that laudable initiative. President Goodluck Jonathan, in his capacity as Chair of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), greatly appreciates the invitation extended to him to participate in today's debate.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his leadership and commitment to peace and security in Africa. His comprehensive report (S/2011/805), which appropriately sets the tone for today's debate, is pertinent for its concrete proposals for improving the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. We owe a great debt to the Kenyan Foreign Minister, Chair of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union, and Commissioner Lamamra for their illuminating perspectives and important insights.

In Africa's increasingly dynamic and complex security environment, the need to strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and the AU, two organizations whose efforts have proven critical in addressing peace and security challenges, cannot be overemphasized. We therefore welcome the important milestones that have been achieved in the relationship between the two bodies over the past two decades. We appreciate, in particular, the increasingly horizontal and vertical cooperation between the two organizations and their key organs and institutions.

The launching of the United Nations-AU Joint Task Force on Peace and Security on 25 September 2010, the establishment of the United Nations Office to the African Union in Addis Ababa and the regular desk-to-desk meetings have all borne fruit and significantly enhanced the cooperation and coordination between the United Nations Secretariat and the AU Commission. It is encouraging that the meetings of the Task Force have provided valuable opportunities for both organs to seek lasting solutions to the conflict situations in Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Sudan and Libya.

For the partnership to be viable, sustainable and strategic, it must be underpinned by clarity of guidance. Indeed, we share the Secretary-General's view that the partnership should be based on comparative advantages, the complementarity of mandates and optimal use of resources and capacities.

It must be stated that cooperation between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council is of singular importance to the growing partnership between the United Nations as a whole and the AU. As a current member of the AU Peace and Security Council, having just concluded our tenure in the Security Council, we are fully cognizant of the central role that both organs play in the maintenance of international peace and security. Regular consultative meetings between them are, therefore, not only desirable but imperative.

In July 2010, under Nigeria's presidency of the Security Council, both organs, meeting in New York, agreed to a specific format and modalities for their annual consultative meetings. That is a good step forward. We expect qualitative progress on that understanding and more vigorous discussion of substantive, not just procedural, issues at future consultative meetings.

Peacekeeping in Africa is an integral and vital part of the maintenance of international peace and security, for which the Council has primary responsibility. Undoubtedly, it is the core area of cooperation between the United Nations and the AU and, conversely, the area bearing the greatest and most significant challenge.

When the AU undertakes a United Nations-mandated peacekeeping operation, it faces multiple financing, equipping and mission support challenges. Those demands often outweigh its resources and capacities to effectively respond. The lessons learned from the workshop of November 2010 between the United Nations and the AU reinforces our view that a great deal still needs to be done on mission planning, the development of doctrines and policies and the operationalization of the African Standby Force.

On Somalia, while we welcome the United Nations effort to augment its footprint with the establishment of the United Nations office in Mogadishu, we also believe that the full provision of both light and heavy support packages for the African Union Mission in Somalia will be a realistic way to underpin recent security gains. Ultimately, a full and robust United Nations peacekeeping operation will be

the panacea to the relentless insecurity, piracy and humanitarian challenges in the country.

With respect to Darfur, the signing of the Doha agreement provides the impetus for the Security Council to give its consent to the convening of the Darfur political process, as called for by the African Union.

In their statements this morning, several delegations aptly acknowledged that the success of any peacekeeping operation is largely dependent on adequate and timely financial and logistical resources. Yet, financing AU peacekeeping operations remains a daunting challenge. Indeed, as the Prodi panel report notes, "financing options are not difficult to identify" (*S/2008/813, paragraph 7*).

The problem persists because we, the stakeholders, have failed to adopt the far-reaching and creative alternatives required. Existing frameworks have so far not been found conducive to building sustainable strategies for peacekeeping partnership.

The Council must consider endorsing a financing option that guarantees the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of funding for AU peacekeeping operations. In that regard, Nigeria welcomes the establishment of the AU High-Level Panel on Alternative Sources of Funding, set up in July 2011 under the chairmanship of former President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, and hopes that the Panel would be supported in achieving its critical mandate. Greater progress is also required in the implementation of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme.

Looking ahead to a more strategic partnership, both organizations must intensify their investment in conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding. Nigeria believes that preventive diplomacy strategies, such as early warning systems and mediation, are pivotal to the attainment of peace and security on the continent. Indeed, for that reason we sought to address the issue of conflict prevention during our presidency of the Security Council in July 2010 (see S/PV.6360).

The AU has worked assiduously over the past decade to build a viable framework for prevention and response, not least through the Panel of the Wise and the AU Peace and Security Council. ECOWAS has also made great strides in that area, primarily through the steady implementation of its conflict prevention framework, including its council of elders, fact-finding and electoral support missions and early warning systems.

Even more significant, both organizations have developed robust peacekeeping mechanisms. Such seminal work at the regional and subregional levels must be supported by decisions taken within the United Nations. That is why Nigeria welcomes the effort by both the United Nations and the AU secretariat to develop common guidelines that are delineated in the framework for mediation in Africa from lessons learned in Kenya, Darfur, Somalia and Guinea-Bissau.

We take this opportunity to call for increased collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union in the drafting of resolutions that would not only address our inherent challenges, but also propel us towards meeting our shared aspirations for a more peaceful world. That is, indeed, an achievable objective if it is underpinned by a closer partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations, particularly the African Union and ECOWAS.

The President: It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it, contained in document S/2012/25. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Azerbaijan, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Morocco, Pakistan, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2033 (2012).

I now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements after the voting.

Mr. Parham (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom has just voted in favour of resolution 2033 (2012) because we are convinced of the important role that regional organizations can play in the pursuit of peace and security in Africa and elsewhere. The United Kingdom recognizes in particular the contribution that the African Union is making to preventing and managing conflict in Africa, and commends the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in that regard.

However, we do not believe that that cooperation, however welcome in principle, should come at the expense either of the Security Council's primacy in respect of the maintenance of international peace and security or of its practical capacity to respond speedily and effectively to any threat to international peace and security.

We regret that the hurried manner in which the text of the resolution was negotiated has left in place some potential ambiguities on those issues. I would like therefore to clarify the United Kingdom's position. In particular, the text refers in paragraph 6 to coordination between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council. In those instances where we consider coordination to be appropriate, it can occur only in the context of the primacy of the Security Council regarding the maintenance of international peace and security. Effective cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations calls for an emphasis on timely communication and consultation and the avoidance of prescribed procedures that are inflexible in the face of varied and urgent challenges.

The United Kingdom supports efforts further to enhance relations between the Council and regional and subregional organizations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

The President: There are no further names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6703

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6703rd meeting

Monday, 16 January 2012, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Sangqu	(South Africa)
Members:	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Araud
	Germany	Mr. Berger
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Kumar
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zhukov
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Sheard
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (S/2011/811)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

12-20721 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (S/2011/811)

The President: Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Said Djinnit, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/811, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa.

I now give the floor to Mr. Djinnit.

Mr. Djinnit (*spoke in French*): It is my honour to present to the Council the eighth report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2011.

Since my most recent briefing to the Security Council, in July 2011 (see S/PV.6577), the situation in West Africa has seen positive developments. During the reporting period, the subregion witnessed no recurrence of open conflict, and tensions related to internal institutional or political crises decreased in both number and intensity. In addition, a number of countries of the subregion held elections that were judged credible by the international community, thereby averting potential electoral crises and any resulting destabilization.

I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the countries of West Africa; to their organization, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); and to all other stakeholders, including civil society and women in particular, for their efforts to consolidate stability in the subregion. I also welcome the role of the United Nations and the contribution — which is most appreciated — that it has made through its various offices in the subregion in supporting the efforts of the West African countries.

Nevertheless, the situation continues to call for caution, as the progress made remains tenuous. As recent events in Guinea-Bissau have shown, the countries of the subregion are not immune from incidents that could jeopardize the progress made in peacebuilding, democracy and stability. Likewise, worrisome developments are possible, including an upswing in the activities of the Boko Haram group in Nigeria, which would pose a grave threat to peace and security in that country, which is of pivotal importance to Africa. We must hope that Nigeria will independently manage to find the resources necessary to tackle the challenges facing it at both the security and political levels. It is also important for the international community to demonstrate its support and solidarity vis-à-vis that country, which has contributed so much to regional and international peace and security.

In that context of tenuous progress, the successful conclusion of the current processes of political dialogue and national reconciliation in the countries of the subregion, particularly in Togo, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, will be decisive in ensuring that the progress made by West Africa in the area of peace and democracy is lasting.

It is encouraging to note the launching of a process of dialogue between the principal political stakeholders in Guinea on 27 December last, after the Government agreed to temporarily suspend the activities of the Independent National Electoral Commission, as requested by the opposition. It is important that national protagonists, including the opposition, demonstrate flexibility so as to swiftly reach agreement on arrangements that would allow for the holding of legislative elections as soon as possible.

While the countries of West Africa were spared violent conflicts and crises during the recent period, they have nevertheless had to tackle a re-emergence of transborder threats. The significant increase in the number of acts of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea during the reporting period poses a fresh threat to the security and development of the States of the region.

The Secretary-General sent an inter-agency mission to the subregion from 7 to 24 November with a view to determining the scope of the threat and to identifying actions that the United Nations and other

partners could undertake so as to support the countries facing that scourge. During that visit, it became clear to mission participants that regional cooperation should be facilitated through the participation of ECOWAS, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Gulf of Guinea Commission, and the support of the United Nations and the international community. Here I should like to stress the imperative need to strengthen cooperation on the part of various institutions at the national level so as to maximize the impact of their efforts to combat the growing threat of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

The humanitarian and security consequences of the Libyan crisis remain a major source of concern, as they have aggravated chronic instability in the subregion, particularly in the countries of the Sahel. The leaders whom I met during a visit I undertook to the Sahel region in October 2011, in particular the Presidents of Mali and of the Niger, underscored the fact that their countries — which were already facing significant challenges, including cyclical drought, food insecurity, youth unemployment and insecurity in the northern parts of their countries — are today having to shoulder a new burden of socio-economic and security problems resulting from the Libyan crisis. They expressed the hope that the United Nations would provide additional support to them in facing those challenges, particularly in terms of the reintegration of returnees. It is in that context that the Secretary-General dispatched an inter-agency assessment mission to the region from 7 to 23 December, with a view to recording the concerns of the region in the wake of the Libyan crisis and to recommending measures aimed at bolstering United Nations support and assistance to those countries.

All of the efforts made to consolidate subregional security and stability could come to nought if the scourge of drug trafficking and organized crime, which is undermining State institutions and already fragile societies in West Africa, is not combated with sustained determination. In that respect, increased political mobilization and strengthened, whole-hearted cooperation are imperative at the level of production, transit and destination countries. The United Nations will remain committed, along with ECOWAS and the countries of the subregion, to promote an effective response to illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa.

Instability arising from elections is another major challenge to the countries of the subregion. Priority attention should continue to be given to the electoral processes in the subregion and their political implications for elections taking place in 2012 and 2013. In that regard, in addition to the legislative elections that should complete the transition process in Guinea, I am thinking in particular of the presidential elections scheduled to take place in Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

I am gratified by the ownership assumed, in particular by civil society, of the recommendations contained in the Declaration on Elections and Stability in West Africa adopted at the end of the regional conference organized in Praia, Cape Verde, by the United Nations Office for West Africa in May 2011. The Bamako Declaration and its strategic framework, adopted on 4 December 2011 at the regional conference on impunity, justice and human rights, provide a new framework for strengthening good governance and the rule of law in the countries of the subregion, in support of the implementation of the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance and the efforts of the ECOWAS Court of Justice.

Building on the success of the Praia and Bamako conferences, the United Nations Office for West Africa intends to organize, whenever necessary and in close cooperation with ECOWAS, the United Nations system and other partners, regional conferences on cross-cutting themes in order to make the best use of the experiences and good practices of West African States, thereby contributing to the development of policy norms. Such conferences would dynamically and constructively promote the efforts of the countries of the subregion towards peacebuilding, democracy and conflict prevention, and foster synergy between the operational work of the actors on the ground and policymaking in the various realms of intervention.

In conclusion, I would stress that, in the coming months, the United Nations Office for West Africa will continue to mobilize the United Nations system and to strengthen its partnerships with regional and subregional organizations — in particular ECOWAS, the Mano River Union, the African Union and civil society, especially women — so as to better consolidate the achievements that have been made in West Africa and prevent conflicts and crises that could

slow the subregion's decisive progress towards peace, democracy and development.

The President: I thank Mr. Djinnit for his briefing.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on this subject.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6704

Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6704th meeting

Thursday, 19 January 2012, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Sangqu	(South Africa)
Members:	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Ms. Guo Xiaomei
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Bonne
	Germany	Mr. Berger
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Loulichki
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Karev
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

Date of election to fill a vacancy in the International Court of Justice

Note by the Secretary-General concerning the date of an election to fill a vacancy in the International Court of Justice (S/2012/38)

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12-20955 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Date of election to fill a vacancy in the International Court of Justice

Note by the Secretary-General concerning the date of an election to fill a vacancy in the International Court of Justice (S/2012/38)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2012/41, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2012/38, which contains a note by the Secretary-General concerning the date of an election to fill a vacancy in the International Court of Justice.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to adopt the draft resolution contained in document S/2012/41 without a vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

The draft resolution has been adopted as resolution 2034 (2012).

The Security Council has thus concluded its business for this meeting.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.